

AUGUST 11
1993
JORDAN TIMES
nt wine
is unear
an

Afghan leaders agree on elections

KABUL (AP) — Afghanistan's divided leadership has agreed to hold internationally-supervised elections this fall, a U.N. official said. Solimous Mousoums, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's representative in Afghanistan, also said that deposed President Najibullah was in serious condition and constant pain from brain surgery. "This is a humanitarian issue. His condition is serious," said Mr. Mousoums, who was in Kabul on Monday to meet with the warring Afghan leaders. The government of former president is divided, mainly due to power struggles. Warring factions have destroyed entire neighbourhoods of Kabul since Mr. Najibullah in April 1992 and establishing an Islamic government. At least 10,000 people, most of them civilians, have died since then in the capital, which has suffered unrelenting during the U.N.-mediated talks. Mr. Mousoums said that the Afghan leaders agreed on elections that would be supervised by the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan by the Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Hizbollah chief warns Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — The leader of Lebanon Hizbollah guerrillas here Wednesday warned Israel against launching any new attacks on South Lebanon. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, who arrived here Monday to discuss the aftermath of the Israeli blitz on South Lebanon, told reporters that Hizbollah "reserves the right to use any means to defend the people of Lebanon." He said his Iranian-backed movement was determined to continue its resistance for as long as the south was "occupied by the Zionist enemy." Hizbollah's secretary general also blasted the United States for "sharing responsibility" with Israel in launching last month's operation to drive guerrillas from South Lebanon. He praised the unanimous support given to Hizbollah by the governments of Iran, Syria and Lebanon and said this "consensus" would strengthen the people of Lebanon. Sheikh Nasrallah said he was not opposed to the deployment of the Lebanese army in the south and stressed that it had the "right to be stationed in any area" of the country.

Volume 17 Number 5381

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 12-13, 1993 SAFR 22-23, 1414

Price: 150 Fds

Kuwait says holds ideal of Arab unity

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's foreign minister on Wednesday dismissed a Kuwaiti newspaper editorial that said Arabs were not "one people" and reiterated his country's ideal of Arab unity. "Kuwait is an Arab state by origin and it always has been so," he said. He also said that the Arab League, which has been established since 1945, is a natural and logical outcome of the Arab world's desire for unity. He said that the Arab League is a natural and logical outcome of the Arab world's desire for unity. He said that the Arab League is a natural and logical outcome of the Arab world's desire for unity.

Palestinians consider means to reorganise PLO links to talks

Arafat says Executive Committee will decide fate of delegates' resignations

Combined agency dispatches
TUNIS — Palestinians are considering a new "administration" to link the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with the occupied territories and end a crisis over management of the occupied territories, a Palestinian adviser said Wednesday.
Three of the most prominent negotiators — Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Saeb Erekat — have threatened to resign if the crisis is not settled.
Saeb Erekat, a Jerusalem academic, said the crisis is a result of the PLO's failure to manage the occupied territories. He said that the PLO's failure to manage the occupied territories is a result of the PLO's failure to manage the occupied territories. He said that the PLO's failure to manage the occupied territories is a result of the PLO's failure to manage the occupied territories.



Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, gestures during an enlarged meeting of Palestinian representatives in Tunis. At left is Mahmoud Abbas and at centre is Yasser Abed Rabbo, members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee (AFP photo)

Cairo denies interference in affairs of Palestinians

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister Amr Musa Wednesday pledged continued support for the Palestinians in the peace process and denied that Egypt had interfered in Palestinian decision-making.
His statements at a news conference came after media reports in several Arab countries accused Egypt of causing a rift between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership in Tunis and Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Poll mechanism still a mystery as voters' roster about to close

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Three days before the end of the voter registration period for the next parliamentary elections on Nov. 8, uncertainty still surrounds the law that will govern the polls, raising the possibility of a legal and political battle that could extend well into the next Parliament.
Just as the government stated that the option for changing or amending the current Election Law is still open, more political parties and opposition figures are warning that they will fight in court any "unconstitutional or illegal" government action on the controversial legislation.
The latest attack on the government came Tuesday when at least 25 Islamist, leftist and centrist members of the dissolved Lower House of Parliament not only warned the government against changing the law but also criticised as essentially "unconstitutional" (and politically dangerous) the dissolution of the House.
A Royal Decree dissolving the House was issued Aug. 4 and the government set Nov. 8 as the date for holding the country's first multi-party polls in over three decades in what was seen as a prelude to changing the law.
Government officials say that the dissolution of Parliament is a necessary step to prepare for the elections.

Istanbul police curb 30 rebel Kurds

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul police said Wednesday they had arrested 35 Kurdish militants suspected of plotting to set off bombs to mark the weekend anniversary of the end of the 1991-92 insurgency. An unidentified attacker threw a grenade into an Istanbul restaurant crowded with foreign tourists on Tuesday night, but failed to explode and there were no injuries, police said. It was not clear whether the attack was the work of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), which has threatened to blow up targets in Istanbul and other Turkish resorts. Police said Anadolu news agency they had seized 38 PKK militants in raids in the city over the past three days. They accused the detainees of planning to set off bombs in Istanbul Sunday, the anniversary of the PKK's first attack on Turkish military posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

Foreign soldier injured in attack

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AFP) — An Israeli soldier was slightly wounded when a Palestinian threw a grenade at a patrol in the occupied Gaza Strip, an army spokesman said Wednesday. The soldier received first aid near where the incident occurred in Rafah and was able to rejoin his unit, the spokesman said. In another development, Hassan Shalhou, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, from Nablus in the occupied West Bank, fled recently to Egypt, the spokesman said. Dozens of Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who fled to Egypt in recent months are being sought by the army.

White House aide committed suicide

WASHINGTON (R) — White House counsel Vincent Foster killed himself after writing a bitter note about widespread lying in Washington, where "running people is considered sport," police said. The note, which seems to show Mr. Foster's increasing bitterness and frustration, accuses the FBI, Republicans and the editors of the Wall Street Journal of various lies and suggested a plot by White House caretakers to embarrass first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. White House officials said the Justice Department was completing an investigation into the charges raised in the note, but that no criminal activity has been found. "Our investigation has found no evidence of foul play," U.S. Park Police Chief Robert Langston told a news conference at the Justice Department. He said the probe concluded Mr. Foster had committed suicide last month.

U.S. warns Serbs of NATO strikes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States warned Wednesday that a Serbian refusal to pull out quickly from two strategic heights overlooking Sarajevo would create conditions for a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strike. The presence of Serbs on Mounts Igman and Bjelasica (see page 8) formed part of the siege of Sarajevo which NATO has decided to lift by force if necessary.

U.N. forces kill 7 Somali gunmen

Combined agency dispatches
MOGADISHU — U.N. forces killed seven Somali gunmen who shot at a surveillance helicopter, the United Nations said Wednesday, as militias of a wanted warlord intensified an offensive against peacekeepers.
In a third straight night of attacks, four militants were killed at U.N. facilities, and three outposts came under intense small arms fire, U.N. military spokesman Major Dave Stockwell said.
There were no U.N. casualties, he said.
In other gunbattles with the 28-nation U.N. alliance, Pakistani and Malaysian troops came under small arms attack.
Major Stockwell said fighters loyal to fugitive clan leader Mohammed Farrah Aided were responsible for "fierce but brief exchanges" with U.N. troops overnight.
"The militia has stepped up its offensive in a variety of ways. There's a shift in tactics here," he said. "We have increased our vigilance."
This week, mortars have been accompanied by bombings and hit-and-run small arms strikes.
Four American soldiers were killed Sunday when their vehicle was bombed.
Gunmen riding on a pick-up equipped with a rocket launcher fired assault rifles at a U.S. Blackhawk surveillance helicopter over south west Mogadishu at around 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, Maj. Stockwell said.
Maj. Stockwell said a Cobra attack helicopter raked the vehicle with its cannon, and secondary explosions indicated ammunition or rockets were hit.
The Cobra crew reported seven gunmen killed, and the pick-up destroyed near October 21 road, a stretch of highway along the northwestern outskirts of the portion of the city controlled by General Aided.
One Somali child who was injured by a mortar shell had a leg amputated at a Romanian U.N. hospital, Maj. Stockwell said.
Since Sunday, U.N. forces have halted non-essential vehicle

6 more killed in Algerian violence

Combined agency dispatches
ALGER — Muslim fundamentalists killed a policeman in Algiers Wednesday, three gunmen died from their wounds and two brothers were gunned down at home in the latest violence to hit Algeria, official sources said.
The deaths bring to at least 12 people killed this week in violence generally blamed on Muslim militants seeking to make Algeria a radical Islamic state.
In a special anti-terrorist court, three men were condemned to death. More than 200 are now in death row or on the run under sentence of death for crimes linked to the violence.
Security sources, quoted by the official news agency APS, said the policeman, 32, worked at Algiers port and was shot by two gunmen in the morning.
The three gunmen died after their patrol was attacked on Tuesday in Saïda province, 340 kilometres southwest of Algiers.
The attack came as a radio station reported the arrest of a senior member of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).
The station, which is operated by the FIS, said Kacem Tadjouri was arrested 10 days ago. It did not elaborate on the reason which has not been confirmed by the government.
Also Wednesday, authorities said two civilians were killed in the town of Temeen, bordering Morocco, by two gunmen posing as police officers.
The deaths bring to eight the number of people killed so far this week.
On Tuesday a paramilitary officer was killed in Blida, south of Algiers, a day after Abdul Hamid Benhenni, a journalist working for the state-owned daily Algerie Actualite, was assassinated by masked men posing as police.
France urged its former colony Algeria Wednesday to speed up economic and democratic reform to put an end to a social crisis.

'Dynamic' 5-year socio-economic plan offers wider opportunities to private sector

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The government has drawn up a five-year plan which focuses on developing the economic and social sectors with strong involvement of both private and public sectors, but it is totally different from earlier five-year plans that the Kingdom had adopted, officials said Wednesday.
Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, emphasised that the 1993-97 plan was completely "new in orientation, objectives and mechanism for application" when compared with the Kingdom's earlier five-year development plans.
He said the plan envisages a total cost of JD 5,732 million of which the public sector's contribution will be JD 1,874 million.
Jordan has been implementing five-year development plans since the early 1970s under which specific projects and programmes were set out as targets to be achieved within the scope of the plans.
Objectives and goals of these plans were not fully achieved, and every phased plan had to carry over projects from its predecessor.
When faced with a severe monetary crisis which scrambled its economy in 1988, Jordan had to abandon its last five-year plan.
Mr. Fariz stressed that the new plan was not a substitute for the economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing to overcome its economic crisis, further exacerbated by the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.
"The plan aims at promoting the social and economic sectors of Jordan and its programmes complement the economic restructuring programme," Mr. Fariz told Petra.
"It serves as a general framework for developing the social and economic sectors since it covers financial, health, educational, investment and administrative aspects," he said.
"It will focus on (solutions to the) unemployment problem and poverty and will also seek to enhance democracy since it will increase popular participation in decision-making at the widest possible level," he added.
The minister said the plan "reflects the government's orientation to promote vocational training, education, health services, and infrastructure such as water, electricity, communications and social services."
Another senior official meanwhile dismissed criticism that Jordan was following fixed-period development plans that were typical of socialist and communist economic systems with centralised planning.
The private sector's participation...
Other officials familiar with the plan, which took months to produce, said it envisaged opening up hitherto restricted sectors of the economy to the private sector in phases based on priorities.
"The plan sets the atmosphere for closer involvement by the private sector in various sectors of the economy with a very clear idea of the national goals and objectives," said one of the officials.
Mr. Fariz also referred to the same concept and said that the plan was "not a mere document for centralised planning which has proved futile in any economic system."
"The plan represents a general policy that would guarantee for the private and public sectors a tool for coordination and integration between economic investments and commercial policies," the minister said.
"The plan is dynamic in nature and will have its impact on the services and industrial sectors, enhancing self-reliance and national potential and will enable Jordan to proceed with plans laid down for economic and administrative reforms," he added.
The plan, he said, seeks to free the economy from constraints and opens the door to the private sector "to fully assume the task of production and create the ideal climate for investment."



Ziad Fariz

Arab Americans say U.S. hopes peace talks will resume next month

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A group of prominent Arab-Americans say Secretary of State Warren Christopher is hopeful that the Middle East peace talks will resume in early September.

The secretary "was optimistic, but he was also realistic" about the future of the peace process, Albert Mokhiber, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), told reporters after the 40-minute meeting with Mr. Christopher at the State Department Tuesday.



Albert Mokhiber

He quoted Mr. Christopher as saying that progress is indeed being made, albeit "inches by inches."

The meeting was "frank" and "cordial" and touched on a number of issues that are of deep concern to the Arab-American community, including the recent Israeli military action in southern Lebanon and the human rights situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr. Mokhiber said.

The Arab-American leaders also said they expressed their very strong support for the peace process, and urged Mr. Christopher to exert greater American influence on Israel to improve its record in the occupied territories and to help move the talks forward.

"The peace talks are on the verge of collapsing," Mr. Mokhiber said, noting that such an outcome would run contrary to the interests of all participants — Arab, American and Israeli.

"The American role," he stressed, "is very important, very vital."

George Salem, president of the National Association of Arab-Americans, said he was "very concerned" about the peace process, but hopes the United States "has the resolve to push the Israeli government" harder to make concessions. In the two years since Israel initiated bilateral talks with Palestinian negotiators, "we have seen the Palestinians pushed very hard," Mr. Salem told a reporter.

Mr. Salem, who said he had spoken the previous evening with Palestinian leaders in Tunis, described the attitude of the Palestinian negotiators as one of "desperation."

"Two years into the process, and what do we have? Human rights violations (in the occupied territories) continue; the deportations continue; there is no new funding for infrastructure or institutions in Gaza or the West Bank; and the talks have not yielded any concrete results," Mr. Salem said.

He and others said they suggested to Mr. Christopher that the United States reduce its substantial aid programme for Israel, and use the money for infrastructure and institution-building in

Kurdish rebels free last two Western hostages

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels, ending a hostage saga which has angered Western governments, released a Briton and an Australian in the wilds of south-eastern Turkey overnight, soon after setting four French tourists free.

Cousins Tania Miller and David Rowbottom, both 28, kidnapped while on a cycling tour on July 5, were set free in a forest and walked into a police station in the town of Guroymak at about midnight (2100 GMT) on Tuesday, a British diplomat said.

They spent the rest of the night in the eastern town of Tatvan, recuperating and telephoning their relatives. They were expected to fly back to Ankara later Wednesday.

"The two tourists are in good health," Australian Ambassador Geoffrey Price told Reuters. "We are thankful to the regional and Turkish authorities for their efforts."

He also paid tribute to a media effort led by Turkish journalist Ismet Inset, who went to Beirut to meet Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) leaders on July 30 and spent much of last week in the southeast trying to secure the hostages' release.

"Inset Inset has been definitely very useful in this release," Mr. Price said. He did not elaborate.

Ms. Miller and Mr. Rowbottom were freed less than 24 hours after the release of four Frenchmen seized from a tour bus on July 24.

Fernand Haron, 66, Michel Coudray, 52, Pierre Fix, 43 and Robert Andouin, 52, were due to leave Ankara for Paris on Wednesday on a French government plane.

They were unharmed apart from cuts and bruises suffered when the PKK made them walk for kilometres across hills to evade pursuit.

In Britain and Australia, relatives of Ms. Miller, a nurse, and Mr. Rowbottom, an engineer, were elated at the news of their release. Mr. Rowbottom's father called it "wonderful."

The cousins had walked to a road and flagged down a truck, which took them to Guroymak. Security forces took them to Tatvan, where British and Australian diplomats received them.

The kidnappings brought considerable publicity for the PKK, locked in a vicious struggle with Turkish forces in the southeast, but further tarnished its image in the West.

"The detention of innocent tourists by terrorist organisations is indefensible," a British Foreign Office statement said.



Four French hostages freed Tuesday reunited with their wives pose for a photo. Fernand Haron, Pierre Fix and Michel Coudray — with their spouses — and bachelor Robert Andouin were released on the road from Tatvan to Van, where they were seized by Kurd separatists July 24 (AFP photo)

Russian emigres feel shunted aside by society in Israel

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Dying in a gunbattle with Palestinians, Sergeant Lev Fishov, a 20-year-old Russian immigrant, seemed to be the stuff all Israeli heroes are made of. He was not buried that way.

Rabbis questioned his Jewish roots and ordered him interred along the wall of the military cemetery, distant from other war dead.

Fellow immigrants saw this week's exclusion as an insult and a metaphor for their own alienation, documented in a study released Tuesday.

"To the Israeli establishment we are invisible," said Liba Einbinder, 42, a psychologist who immigrated two years ago.

"In Moscow, people showed us a lot of respect and we were at the top of society. Here we feel people are keeping us out. We are able to learn quickly, but they don't want us," said Mrs. Einbinder, a small, elegant woman speaking flawless Hebrew.

She was among more than a dozen women who launched a hunger strike outside parliament Tuesday to protest poor housing conditions for single immigrant mothers.

About 450,000 immigrants have come to Israel from the former Soviet Union since 1989, among them tens of thousands of academics, engineers and professionals.

At its start the immigration was seen as buttressing Israel's future. It reversed the demographic battle that the Jews were losing to the Palestinians. The burst of trained professionals was supposed to transform the state into a high-tech incubator. That never materialised.

A survey released Tuesday showed that one-third of those who have lived in Israel for more than 30 months were distressed and demoralised to such a degree that they ought to seek treatment.

Immigrants were most upset over uncertain housing and job markets.

By comparison, only eight per cent of new arrivals had a high distress rate and it is under 10 per cent for veteran Israelis, according to the poll which questioned 996 Russian immigrants.

Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said in a statement that the results were a "serious warning signal that requires a drastic change in absorption conditions."

The unemployment rate among Russian immigrants is 25 per cent — down from 40 per cent in 1991, but still three times that of veteran Israelis. Many work far below their education levels.

Among the women hunger strikers, a child psychologist worked as a supermarket clerk, a concert pianist cleaned floors and an engineer had become a nanny.

Many said they were ready to make temporary sacrifices to live in Israel, but rising, dollar-linked rents forced them to move frequently into smaller and more run-down apartments.

More than 34 per cent of the new immigrants live below the poverty line, compared to 19 per cent among veteran Israelis, said Gershon Gershon, spokesman of the Zionist Forum.

Absorption problems have seen the number of immigrants drop to about 32,000 this year. Israelis are often unsympathetic, generally viewing the Russians as fortune hunters with little interest in the Jewish faith.

Many immigrants accuse the government of Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin of indifference to their plight and breaking election year promises.

Mr. Rabin won the June 1992 election partly because of massive support from Soviet immigrants disillusioned by the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, which spent heavily on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories while ignoring absorption needs.

The Rabin government has stepped up investment to create new jobs, but changes are slow. "The promise was broken a long time ago," said Mr. Gershon.

In May, 15,000 immigrants rallied outside parliament in the largest protest since the immigration began. The immigration minister was shouted down with calls of "Shame, shame" when he told the crowd that Mr. Rabin took their troubles seriously.

The feeling of exclusion grew when Olga Chaikov, a Russian immigrant shot dead by a Palestinian bus hijacker in Jerusalem in July, was buried in a plot reserved for those whose Jewish faith is questioned.

Fishov, the young sergeant, died in the occupied West Bank last Friday. Rabbis said he was not Jewish because his mother, Svetlana, is not Jewish, and his grave was dug at the cemetery's periphery.

An outraged Rabin offered the family to have the casket moved, and the army's chief of staff, Ehud Barak, promised such a mistake would not happen again.

Fishov's family told Mr. Rabin's office they did not want the casket moved, Israel TV reported. But in the minds of many immigrants, the image of the lonely grave stuck.

"They buried him like a dog," said Mrs. Einbinder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt-Israel contract payments questioned

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. defence auditors, reporting possible new misuse of foreign aid, are checking dozens of U.S. contracts in Egypt and Israel following a major Israeli fraud case, according to a congressional report. The U.S. companies have denied any wrongdoing but investigation of the Defence Department audits is continuing, according to this week's report by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the watchdog arm of the U.S. Congress.

Auditors uncovered evidence that contractors may have improperly used foreign military financing funds to 1) pay questionable commissions, 2) reimburse foreign officials for travel expenses or 3) make payments for items that were not of U.S. origin," the GAO report said. The report said a Defence Department agency has audited nine U.S. contracts in Egypt and two in Israel since 1991 when Israeli air force General Ramzi Dotan was convicted of defrauding the U.S. government of \$40 million on General Electric engine contracts. The Pentagon agency plans to audit an additional 15 U.S. contracts in Egypt and 22 in Israel, the report said. It said the Justice Department, the Pentagon's defence criminal investigative service and the GAO are also investigating U.S. military aid contracts. The Israeli embassy said the GAO report notes that since the Dotan affair, Israel's ministry of defence "has made numerous changes designed to ensure the integrity and efficiency of its commercial procurement."

Children invited to paint peace fresco

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Jerusalem city council Tuesday invited hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian children to paint a fresco 500 metres long on the theme "Jerusalem, City of Peace." A canvas 1.5 metres wide was spread around one of the Old City's historic sites. One of the event's organisers said the young artists would use the oil paints and hundreds of brushes at their disposal to "convey a message of peace and tolerance between Israelis and Palestinians." Once finished the fresco will be sent to the U.N. headquarters in New York, to be put on display there, he added.

Israel developing new assault rifle

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is developing a lightweight, multipurpose assault rifle with interchangeable parts, the Israel Military Industries (IMI) said Tuesday. The AAR-90 rifle was designed for infantry but IMI said it can be modified for snipers, armoured troops, naval frog men and commandos, an IMI release said. "This rifle was designed so the soldier would want it," IMI Director Gabi Komissar was quoted by the Daily Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper as saying. IMI has suffered a number of financial setbacks in recent years, as military conflicts have decreased. "Marketing is the key word today," Mr. Komissar told Yedioth.

Turkish Cypriot disappears on jail outing

LONDON (R) — A Turkish Cypriot businessman who was serving a five-year jail sentence in Britain for fraud and tax evasion is missing after failing to return from weekend prison leave, the Home Office said Wednesday. A spokesman said he could not confirm reports that Mustafa Ecn had fled to northern Cyprus. But police spokesman Osman Irgatoglu told Reuters in the self-declared republic, recognised only by Turkey, that a man calling himself Ben arrived there on Sunday with his wife. Fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir skipped bail of \$3.5 million (\$5 million) and fled by private jet to northern Cyprus in May this year while facing theft charges relating to his collapsed Poly Peck business empire. The incident was a severe embarrassment for the British government. Mr. Ben was serving his sentence at a low security prison in southern England, the Home Office spokesman said. He was given five hours leave from the prison Saturday to visit his family but did not report back. Mr. Ben was jailed earlier this year for a tax fraud involving clothing factories, illegal immigrants and false invoices. "I don't know where he is," the Home Office spokesman said. "We do regret that someone has abused the trust placed in them." He said Mr. Ben was "a trusted prisoner" who had been allowed out of the jail on several occasions and had returned on times.

Man takes Russian consul hostage in Tehran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian police Wednesday shot and seriously wounded a member of the banned Communist Party who took the Russian consul in Tehran hostage, officials said. Andrey Kiselev was freed after being taken hostage at the offices of the Russian consular section, said embassy official Yuri Khokhlov. "He's ok. He's alive and healthy," Mr. Khokhlov told the Associated Press in Nicosia by telephone. He would not give any other details. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi as saying police shot the man at 1:30 a.m. (2100 GMT Tuesday). The Iranian hostage-taker was in critical condition, the agency said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus. Police intervened at the request of Russian Ambassador Sergei Tretjakov after the abductor refused to surrender and intensified threats against the consul, Mr. Mohammadi was quoted as saying. The man demanded political asylum in Russia, Mr. Mohammadi said. The agency quoted "security sources" as saying the assailant was a member of the banned Tudeh, or Communist, Party who had lived in Russia for four years in the past.

Hush-hush itinerary for Bush trip to Morocco

RABAT (AP) — Former President George Bush is scheduled to arrive Thursday for a private visit of one or two days, but officials Tuesday were being tight-lipped about his itinerary. Mr. Bush is likely to meet King Hassan II, but no other plans were being released, said a source close to the U.S. embassy, speaking on condition of anonymity. Mr. Bush was the target of an assassination plot during his high-profile trip to Kuwait from April 11-14. Fourteen men, some of them Iraqis, are accused in the case and hearings are to resume Sept. 5. Morocco was one of the countries that joined the U.S.-led offensive that crushed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war while Mr. Bush was president. The fact it begins Wednesday to Europe according to Mr. Bush's chief of staff, Rose Zamarra, in Houston. Mr. Bush was to arrive in Spain on Wednesday and resume his private visit to Spain on Friday when he arrives in Marbella, according to diplomatic sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

Economic survivors take tiny steps towards revival in Somalia

By Angus Shaw
The Associated Press

KISMAYU — An airline office has opened, there is a pay phone hooked up to a satellite, and soon the street lights will go on again.

It is not exactly a boom. But the tiny steps towards economic revival taken in this war-damaged southern port and elsewhere show that Somalia's urban centres may be slowly coming back.

A syndicate of local business people is doing its best to resurrect Kismayu, starting with paying for repairs to the city's lights.

"Things are fine. You can go

out at night, you can eat, you can drink," said Hussein Haji Hird, manager of Dalko Airlines, a charter company flying between Somalia, Djibouti and the Middle East.

Dusty downtown Kismayu is not quite a vibrant metropolis. But its progress and stability are noteworthy, especially compared to Mogadishu, where attacks on foreign troops occur regularly.

Kismayu claims to be the first Somali city to restore at least some public utilities, alongside economic activities broader in scope than southern Somalia's ubiquitous outdoor markets.

The revival, however tenta-

ive, is the result of inflowing aid, a native instinct for bargaining and a unique system of money-dealing spawned by years of brutal dictatorship, civil war and famine.

Other towns and cities are slowly following suit. Hard currency transfers from Somalia living abroad long underpinned local commerce as bureaucracy, then war, destroyed the country's internal revenue base.

American dollars were shifted through Western banks, mostly never to touch Somali shores. The remittances financed imports or bought services at home from clansmen whose relatives were paid abroad.

"One income abroad can support 15 people at home. This system worked the worst of times," said John Kilkeny, an aid official with long experience in Somalia.

During the civil war that followed the ouster of military dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, most shops and offices were looted and destroyed. The owners of private businesses fled for their lives with anything they could salvage and carry away.

Vaults full of new Somali money were taken from the looted central bank in Mogadishu, as were the plates to print bank notes. That turned out to be good for the economy, Mr. Kilkeny said.

"New money is appearing, but it isn't flooding the market to the point where it becomes worthless," he explained.

The Somali shilling, still used for routine trading, has held its value at around 4,000 to the dollar in recent weeks and freely buys dollars "on the street."

Continued fighting in Mogadishu has so far prevented the capital's economic revival.

A few makeshift stores are open, but most businesses are done in tea stalls and market shelters. Industry is left to backstreet carpenters, mechanics and welders, and there are no telecommunications apart from U.N. links and satellite systems used by foreigners.

Apart from food aid and military hardware, only a few hundred tonnes of gasoline, cooking oil and consumer goods from Kenya arrive by sea each week — a way down from totals of the late 1980s.

Cranes were stolen during the civil war, so local agents pay stevedores about \$8 a day to unload cargo by hand.

A power grid, a pipeline and a tank farm serving the capital were all destroyed by fighting.

"The situation is less than ideal," said George Mapilli, an Indian official of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). "But we're working on it."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Pif et Hercule
17:45 Goal
18:15 Geopolls
19:00 News in French
19:15 Azimuts
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:10 Quantum Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30

Movie of the Week: "Woman with a Past"

PRAYER TIMES
06:27 Fajr
05:53 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 'Asr
19:29 Maghrib
19:57 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweetsfield, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624228
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	18 / 30
Aqaba	25 / 39
Deserts	16 / 37
Jordan Valley	22 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 14 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Othuman 786384
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid 736011
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 696140
Dr. Fakher Bilal 630412
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Sahan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649493
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Ali Al Omani 772032
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omani 901266
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Police 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 636730
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 66-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
St. Michael Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667271/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665121/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Muasher 777017/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Owesa Alia Hospital 602240/50
Asal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900580
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hum Modern Hospital (09)999990
EBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00 Aden (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran (RJ)
10:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:55 Lamaca (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
15:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
15:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
15:30 Athens (RJ)
20:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:10 Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Aden (RJ)
12:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:45 Paris (RJ)
13:50 London (RJ)
15:30 Lamaca (RJ)
21:45 Dubai, Singapore (RJ)
21:50 Madrid (RJ)
21:50 Jeddah (RJ)
21:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Muscat (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00 Antalya (TK)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
16:35 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 350/200
Apricots 300/200
Banana 680 / 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620 / 620
Beans 520 / 350
Carrot 100 / 50
Cauliflower 280/220
Cherry (red) 750/600
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 100
Eggplant 170 / 120
Garlic 170 / 50
Grapes 700 / 500
Lemon 380 / 420
Marrow (large) 300 / 300
Marrow (small) 150 / 200
Mint 200 / 100
Okra 600/500
Onion (dry) 140 / 70
Orange 340/280
Peas 600/500
Pepper (hot) 360 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 220
Potato 230 / 150
Tomato 130 / 60
Watermelon 240/150
Watermelon 140/60

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00 Antalya (TK)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
16:35 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Aden (RJ)
12:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:45 Paris (RJ)
13:50 London (RJ)
15:30 Lamaca (RJ)
21:45 Dubai, Singapore (RJ)
21:50 Madrid (RJ)
21:50 Jeddah (RJ)
21:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Muscat (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00 Antalya (TK)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
16:35 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

Italian business team due in Amman for economic talks

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-member team of Italian businessmen is due in Amman early next month in order to explore prospects for launching joint economic ventures with Jordanian partners, according to the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Trade and the Italian embassy here.

The group will be studying the possibility of launching the projects through an \$11 million grant by the European Community (EC) earlier this year to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon under the terms of an overall project called "Med-Invest," according to Raffaele De Benedictis, commercial secretary at the Italian embassy in Amman.

Mr. De Benedictis told the Jordan Times that the group of Italian businessmen will explore the prospects of launching small and medium enterprises with Jordanian businessmen, mainly for the production of textiles, leather, shoes and chemicals.

The Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will host the mission in Amman early September and will "give its members all the required facilities for contacts in the country," added Mr. De Benedictis.

The head of the delegation will be the president of the Italian Arab Chamber of Commerce Sergio Marini, who will be accompanied by two other experts to establish the first contacts with the Jordanian side, he said.

Volunteers clean Amman streets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Municipality Wednesday joined hands with 30 Jordanian organisations in the capital in organising a general cleaning campaign in the city.

Hundreds of volunteers took part in the campaign, which entailed painting the pavements with yellow and black colours and the distribution of waste bags to homes and vehicles.

The sprucing-up campaign, which started off from the Amman International Hotel in the early morning was supervised by Mamdouh Al Abbadi, the Amman mayor.

The volunteers, many of whom were students, took part in collecting rubbish and litter and distributed leaflets calling on the public to help protect the environment and keep the city clean.

The campaign, said Dr. Abbadi, is aimed at focusing public attention on the need for citizens to join in the government's efforts.

The leaflets, distributed to the people of Amman to avoid using gases considered harmful to the atmosphere.

RSS urges fight against pollution near Zarqa

Official admits contaminated air is cause of 'serious diseases'

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has warned of the dangers to public health posed by contamination around the Hashemite town near Zarqa, and called for immediate measures to deal with the situation.

Engineer Ayman Al Hassan, a specialist representing the RSS at a seminar held Tuesday in Hashemite, told the meeting that the Khirbet Al Samra waste water treatment plant was the main source of danger to the area.

Noting that pollution to the air is indicated by the very bad odour rising from the plant, Mr. Al Hassan said that compared with other areas, the atmospheric pollution around Hashemite is much worse than any other region in Jordan.

Recent studies on the level of pollution in the region did not give accurate and final figures, but did indicate that the damage to public health is severe, said Al Hassan.

He also said that pollution in the atmosphere has also been

coming from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company near Zarqa and the nearby Al Hussein Thermal Power Station.

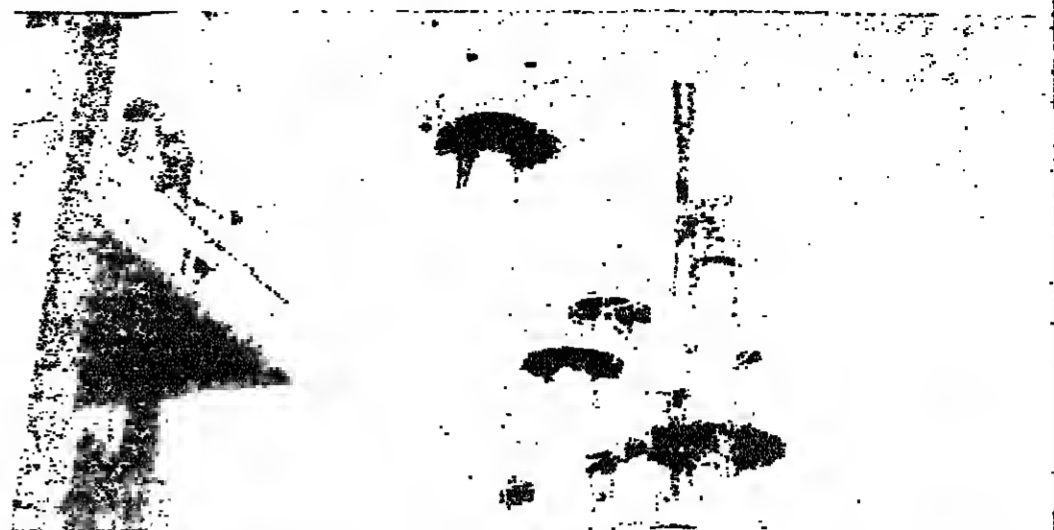
Another specialist, Ayman Tuffaha agreed with Mr. Al Hassan that "the intense bad smell rising up from the treatment plant of Khirbet Al Samra clearly shows that there is something wrong with the design of the plant."

However, Mr. Tuffaha added the treated water coming out of the plant is useful for agricultural purposes, especially for irrigating trees.

The environmental pollution, he said, is a direct result of dumping liquid and solid waste into a number of regions including the Duleil stream.

According to Mazen Al Jaghbir from the Health Ministry, the pollution in the Al Hashemite region has been causing serious diseases among the local residents, including pneumonia.

Some participants addressing the seminar suggested a general survey of the residen-



Environmentalists say the oil refinery in Zarqa is a major source of pollution (file photo)

Nearly 50,000 people live in the affected region and their lives are at risk, said the participants.

The seminar was organised by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the Amman office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany.

According to the organisers, the seminar was held in Al Hashemite in view of the health hazards caused to the local residents from the Khirbet Al Samra plant and the other sources of pollution.

American scholar says Jerusalem must be open to all believers

Ministry official outlines stand on peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — "The city of Jerusalem should remain open to all religions and believers in God as they are all descendants of father Abraham," Kent Brown, director of the Middle East Studies Centre at Brigham Young University in the American state of Utah, said Wednesday.

Dr. Brown said that Jerusalem is an important city for all monotheistic faiths, whose followers are descendants of father Abraham.

Dr. Kent was speaking in Amman following a meeting on Middle East questions with the Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Muallah.

Dr. Brown is currently on a visit to Jordan, leading a group of 129 students at the centre in Utah.

The centre aims at providing students with education about the holy lands among other topics and organises trips to Jordan and Arab Jerusalem to study ancient and contemporary cultures, said Dr. Brown.

Mr. Muallah briefed the visitors on Jordan's domestic and foreign policies, mainly focusing on the Middle East peace process and the situation in the region in

the aftermath of the Gulf war. Referring to Jordan's stand vis-à-vis the Gulf crisis, Mr. Muallah told the group that Jordan opposed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait adding that His Majesty King Hussein has called for an Arab solution to settle the dispute between the two countries.

He said that more than 350,000 Jordanian expatriates returned here from Kuwait and other Gulf countries further hardening the economy of Jordan which was severely hurt by the crisis.

Referring to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Muallah said Jordan continues to seek the implementation of UN resolutions and an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Warning of the impact of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Muallah said the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel helped it to consolidate its hold over the occupied Arab land. He said that Israelis continue to flood the occupied Arab territories with Jewish immigrants from Russia and other countries.

Referring to the current "hostile" Western stand towards Islam, Mr. Muallah said that there is no "justification for fears of Islam." Israel, he said "is trying to find a new role in the region, namely: confronting Islam now that its role in the cold war is over."

Princess Wijdan Ali opens children's festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Wednesday opened at the International Expo Centre the "93 Children's Festival," which is organised by the National Association for the Education of the Child in observance of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne anniversary.

Princess Wijdan Ali toured the festival site and was familiarised with items on display. About 80 cultural institutions are participating in the 12-day festival.

The festival's activities include daily showings of films for children, plays and educational programmes for children and parents. Director of the National Association for the Education of the Child Mohammad Hassan said the festival was the first such event organised by the association since it was established in 1987, adding that similar events will be organised in other governorates in the future.

According to Dr. Hassan, the association was established upon directives by Queen Noor in order to coordinate efforts of institutions concerned with children's pre-school education.

Iraqi oil minister in Jordan on 'semi-official' visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi Oil Minister Osama Al Hiti is currently in Jordan on what Iraqi diplomatic sources describe as a semi-official visit.

It was the first foreign visit of Mr. Hiti after talks adjourned inconclusively at the U.N. headquarters last month on a one-time Iraqi export of oil worth \$1.6 billion.

"The minister is in Amman on a semi-official visit and will return at the end of the week," said an Iraqi diplomatic source without elaboration.

The source also declined comment when asked whether bilateral Jordanian-Iraqi issues were the focus of Mr. Hiti's visit.

Another source familiar with the Iraqi-U.N. negotiations hinted that Mr. Hiti was here on a mission during which he was "pursuing contacts that started at the U.N. last month."

The source rejected suggestions that Mr. Hiti was supposed to meet with Gabon's Jean Ping, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Amman, to discuss the possible impact of Iraq reaching an agreement with the U.N. on oil exports. There was no report of Mr. Ping being in Amman this week.

Reports of Amman being the venue for such a meeting

emerged last month when the OPEC president toured the Gulf states at the peak of Iraqi-U.N. negotiations on a possible return of Iraqi oil to the international markets.

Some of the Gulf states were reported to be leading opposition to allowing Iraq to export any amount of oil at this stage.

"Iraq no longer considers OPEC a neutral organisation, particularly after it tried to block Iraqi oil exports," said the source, referring reports that the cartel felt that oil prices could plunge dramatically if Iraqi crude enters the already glutted market.

"Contacts with OPEC will be made as and when Iraq finds it fit to do so," added the source. "And when it does it will be on its own terms."

Reuters news agency said Wednesday that Mr. Hiti himself declined comment on the negotiations with the U.N.

"Our policy now is not to comment on anything related to that," the news agency quoted the minister as saying.

According to the Iraqi source, Baghdad "is keeping all options open and will exercise them on its own terms."

"If Iraq could survive for three

years under such severe conditions, then it can continue for a few months more," said the source, referring to the sweeping international trade embargo imposed on the country following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali reported to members of the U.N. Security Council last month that Iraq was no longer interested in a one-time oil sale but was seeking a partial lifting of the sanctions so that it could export oil and raise funds to pay for food and medicine for its 18 million people.

No date has been set for the resumption of the U.N. talks, but it is expected that the issue will be raised when Iraqi and U.N. officials meet later this month and early next month for discussions on long-term U.N. monitoring of Iraqi weapons programme under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Despite the apparent deadlock in negotiations and signs of international opposition to exports of Iraqi oil, Baghdad is reportedly preparing the ground for the eventual resumption of oil sales. It has already prepared two oil terminals in the Gulf and is going ahead with clearing the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway of debris — wrecks of up to 75 vessels which were caught in the area when the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab leaders congratulate King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received more cables of good wishes from Arab leaders congratulating him on the anniversary of his accession to the Throne. The cables were sent by King Hassan II of Morocco, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and Bahraini Crown Prince Prince Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifah. Other cables were sent by Chief Islamic Justice Noah Salman, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi, heads of professional associations, societies and clubs, tribal leaders and representatives of refugee camps.

Japanese official arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the Middle East and Africa Desk at the Japanese Foreign Ministry Toshimori Shigeo arrived here Wednesday at the start of a three-day official visit to Jordan. The Japanese official will hold talks with Jordanian officials on international issues of common concern and Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in economic and other fields.

Salameh heads local media section at Prince Hassan's office

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ahmad Salameh, former journalist at Al Ra'i newspaper, has been appointed as chief of the Jordanian media section at His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's office. Mr. Salameh worked for Al Ra'i for nearly 15 years.

Jerash highway to open in May

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-Jerash-Irbid highway will be opened for traffic May 1994, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Al Hawari. Mr. Hawari said the 90-kilometre highway will include two lanes in each direction. Work on the project started in 1989 and was supposed to be finished within about two years but was delayed several times for technical reasons and landslides in the area between Amman and Jerash.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbelle Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- Exhibition entitled "Hashemite Paintings" by Jordanian artist Iyad Al Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan, organised by the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History, at the British Council.
- Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussaini Judi and Shawkat Al Alosi at the Royal Cultural Centre — opening ceremony at 7 p.m.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "Mary poppin'" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (139 minutes).

FIELD TRIP

- Field trip, organised Friday by the Friends of Archaeology, to Nakhal, Mubay and Mu'ta University, near Karak. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 8.30 p.m. either in bus or private cars.

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the Holy City of Jerusalem at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Exhibition of books on various subjects at Al Hashimiya Plaza, in downtown Amman.

AL FUHEIS FESTIVAL

- Exhibition of paintings, photographs, books and handicrafts at the Balks Art Gallery.
- Arabic poetry recital by Khaled Mahadin, Yousef Abdul Aziz, Basel Rafat'a, Habib Zayoudi, Shawqi Bazigh, Siham Al Sha'sha', Murid Al Bargouti and Taher Riyadi at Al Fuheis Cultural Forum Plaza at 7 p.m.
- Cocerci by Al Fuheis troupe for folk arts at the Latin Church theatre at 9 p.m.



KINGDOM OF PEACE: Al Ahli Club in Amman will Thursday celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne with its musical production: The Kingdom of Peace. A 90-member group will participate in the production which will be presented at the Palace of Culture. "In the language of art," the production tells the story of the Circassians' immigration from the Caucasus and settlement in Jordan.

Means to reorganise links considered

(Continued from page 1)

A statement on Wednesday by Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, the dominant force in the PLO, to the Palestinians in the occupied territories suggested that in the end, the negotiators had to accept Mr. Arafat's orders.

"The behaviour of the delegation towards its leadership is the behaviour of the soldier in battle towards his commander, completing the task and desiring the goal," the Fatah statement said.

"All this will lack the slightest basis for success and victory if discipline and the national interest are not his real watchword," it warned.

"The leadership in Tunis has the right that its loyal soldiers should come to their commanders and present whatever recommendations, points of view and proposals they like, as has been the custom, rather than fall into error and resort to the media."

A senior PLO official Wednesday poured scorn over a proposal for early self-rule in the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank, which was said to have been approved by Mr. Arafat.

Hassan Asfour, secretary of the PLO committee that oversees strategy on the peace talks, described the proposal as "full of malice and poison."

"It will lead the Palestinians into a dark tunnel," Mr. Asfour wrote in the Tunisian daily Al Rai Al Am. Mr. Asfour's job is to act as liaison between the PLO and the Palestinian negotiators in the peace talks.

The proposal, under which Palestinians would gain self-rule only in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho in the heart of the West Bank, was included in the document presented to Mr. Christopher last week.

The plan, reportedly approved by Mr. Arafat, apparently is aimed at achieving a breakthrough in talks with the Israelis in hopes that a greater measure of self-rule could be granted later.

DAUP proposes 80 voting districts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Democratic Arab Unionists Party (DAUP) has proposed the division of Jordan into 80 voting constituencies. The party also proposed that elections be held in two stages so that the deputy obtain more than 50 per cent of the votes in his respective constituency.

The DAUP ideas were presented at an open meeting Tuesday by party Secretary General Anis Muasher who also announced that the executive committee will soon hold a session to examine the present Election Law before declaring the party's official stand on it.

DAUP believes that the present Election Law needs a basic amendment so as to make way for more appropriate representation of voters in the 80-seat Lower House of parliament, said Mr. Muasher.

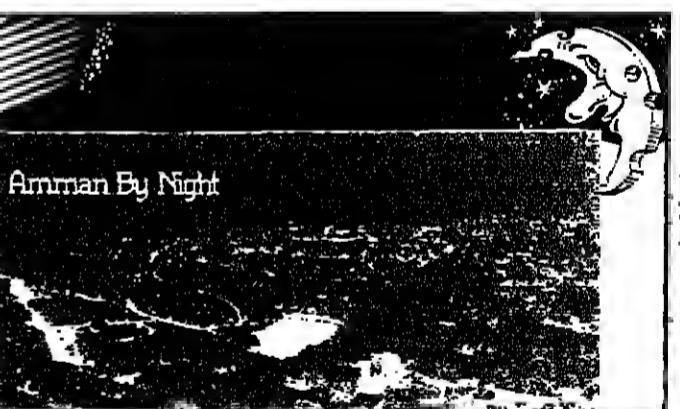
"We warn against the adoption of any amendment to the law that would give preference to one faction over the other," said Mr. Muasher.

However, the remaining time before the election date does not allow for any drastic change in the Election Law.

But a simple change like the one-person-one-vote system could possibly be introduced," added Mr. Muasher.

He said that the party's executive committee has found that the one-person-one-vote system does not offer a complete solution but that it is better than the present system.

He said the DAUP calls for retaining the quota system which assigns special seats for Christians and Circassians.



Thursday Night Special

Time	every Thursday night, at 7:00 pm starting 12th August 1993
Pick-up	From your hotel stay, or any place in Amman.
Tour	Sight-seeing Amman by night including roman theatre, down town and the kings highway to ALI A Hotel
B.B.Q.	at ALIA Hotel Swimming Pool Terrace. A Selection of oriental food & desserts.
Live	entertainment enjoy the traditional dances, songs and instrumental music of Jordan's provinces by the Famous Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe in colourful costumes based on traditional regional dress along side with oriental band
Price	J.D. 12,000 per person inclusive

ALIA HOTEL فندق عاليا

For information & reservation please call ALIA HOTEL SALES DEPT. 0851000

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جورديان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

New veins of justice

IN HIS continuing tours of government institutions and establishments, the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, paid a visit a few days ago to the Ministry of Justice and discussed with its minister ways and means to bolster the administration of justice in the country. The fact that the prime minister made this timely visit suggests at least that the court system in Jordan is not being neglected. This is comforting to a certain extent since democracy in Jordan cannot be expected to flourish and take deep roots without a solid foundation of justice.

Yet much has been said already about the court system in our country but very little has been done about it. We hope that this time around, the interest of Dr. Majali in what is happening in this field will make a real change. It does not take much effort to discover the extent of the archaic court system in the Kingdom. One simple glance at existing courts or the conditions under which our judges have to live and operate would readily reveal the extent of problems faced by our system of justice. Court decorum is either absent or lacking in every conceivable way. The prime minister should have visited the so-called Palace of Justice to get a glimpse of samples of our courts instead of paying a short courtesy visit to the Ministry of Justice. But since he could not be expected to be well-versed in legal norms and legal decorum, he should have been also accompanied by jurists who have access to contemporary court systems in order to help him identify the many weak points in Jordanian courts. Had anybody pointed out to the prime minister, for example, that legal transcripts are still being taken in a manner reminiscent of the late 19th Century? This is only one glaring example of the outdated technology that still pervades the entire conduct of justice in the country. Litigants often do not realise that they are in an official court judging by the way the courts look or even smell. Even worse is the way some of our judges carry out their solemn duties as arbiters of justice between plaintiffs and defendants.

We do not share the general view that the problems of the Ministry of Justice are related to low budgetary allocations. Money is part of the crisis but it is by no means the cause of all ills. What is lacking is a dynamic leadership that is motivated and well-trained to tackle problems head on. The proposal of the prime minister to send judges for courses in foreign countries to acquire additional skills in not nearly sufficient enough. You simply cannot change people that much after their personal and professional traits have hardened or fossilised into what they are now.

It is infinitely better to start a new, whether in recruitment or training policies. And instead of just building more courtrooms, it would be more productive and cost-effective to improve first on existing ones.

Since there has been enough talk about the subject but little action that followed, we believe that it is about time that the incumbent minister of justice rolled up his sleeves and got to work on overhauling the whole system under his control. The prime minister has already signalled his interest in doing all that is possible to fundamentally improve the system. What remains to be done is to translate that interest into reality. New blood has to be allowed to flow through the veins of the ministry.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THE face of evil plans concocted by the Israeli enemy and in light of the American administration's acts of deceit, the Arab countries involved in the negotiations with Israel have no alternative but to join forces and confront the common challenge, called Ibrahim Al Abi in Al Rai daily Wednesday. The writer said the Arabs should pool all their resources for the battle of peace and before it is too late, so that they can guarantee their rights. Today's world knows no mercy on sympathy, and the rights written down on paper can by no means be regained unless backed by deeds, stressed the writer. The weak can get nothing despite the fact that right could be on their side and the strong can seize everything depending on the extent of their power, he added. It is not a novelty to say that the Arab countries' battle with Israel over a peaceful settlement is a hard and fierce one by all standards, he said. The writer said that this battle for peace is perhaps one of the hardest ever fought by the Arabs against the Israelis over the past 40 years. But, he added, it is sad to think and to see that the Arabs are fighting this fierce battle from a position of weakness, deprived of the oil weapon, which supported them in the 1973 war, and of other elements of power required to confront such a fierce enemy. The writer said that the only weapon left for the Arabs now is solidarity and a united stand with which they can achieve an honourable settlement in their drive to attain a lasting peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour praised the three Palestinian peace negotiators for withdrawing their resignations and settling their dispute with the PLO leadership in Tunis. Mazen Hamad said that it is good for the Palestinians to see their representatives containing the dispute and working together in order to accomplish the task of ensuring the liberation of their usurped land. The crisis which broke out between the negotiators and the PLO leadership was not a ploy or a tactical move as some people had thought, said the writer. He said that the difference in view was over substantial matters, like land, the status of Jerusalem and the autonomy law. The PLO leadership was wise enough to consult with the negotiators thus averting taking its own decisions which, the writer said, might not have been the wisest at this stage. Patching up differences has put an end to Israel's plots to draw a wedge between the PLO and the negotiators and ended Israel's allegations that it was the Palestinians who are delaying a final decision on a settlement, added the writer. He said that the end of differences has now paved the ground for the resumption of peace talks without any obstacles.

NATO teeters on brink of air strikes in Bosnia

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Like a timid bather, NATO has tiptoed to the brink of military intervention in Bosnia but is still holding back, uncertain whether to take the plunge.

For the 16-nation Western alliance, it would be a momentous step — the first offensive action since it was set up 44 years ago to ward off the threat of a Soviet invasion.

A meeting of NATO ambassadors on Monday took the alliance about as far as it can go without actually intervening. The envoys approved military plans for air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs if they do not lift their siege of Sarajevo.

The alliance now has in place all the means necessary to take forceful action against the Serbs should they not cease their intolerable behaviour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Washington.

But still NATO has laid the responsibility for taking the fateful decision to start bombing on someone else — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who will have to authorise the first use of air power.

And while, technically, NATO could be ready to launch a strike within a day or two of a Serb violation, in practice such an action is subject to a whole web of political constraints.

Chief among these is the peace conference in Geneva, where leaders of the Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims are arguing over a plan to split the Balkan republic into three mini-states, one for each ethnic group.

Although the talks have stumbled from one problem to another, western officials have made clear time and again that their concern to see a peace agreement overrides their desire to hit the Serbs just to give the impression of "doing something".

NATO officials say the threat of bombing has already made the Serbs more flexible — for example, they already appear to have withdrawn from at least part of the two mountains near Sarajevo which they captured last week.

But, actually carrying out the bombing could be a different matter, some diplomats fear, causing either the Serbs to give up on the talks or the Muslims to stiffen their line in the hope that western intervention will remove the need for compromise.

The other immediate consideration is the safety of U.N. peacekeeping forces on the ground in Bosnia, among them troops from NATO nations France, Britain, Spain and Canada, who could be easy targets for retaliation.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said the alliance had taken account of this problem. But refused to give

details. Behind the tough talk of NATO communiqués lies a wide divergence of view over whether air strikes are desirable or useful.

Alliance members range from doves like Denmark, which has openly said it opposes strikes, and Greece, which is friendly with Serbia, to hawks like the United States, which wants action, and Turkey, keen to defend fellow Muslims in Bosnia.

In any case few if any countries want to send ground forces to fight in the Bosnian "quagmire", despite the view of some military analysts that bombing without ground back-up will achieve almost nothing.

According to diplomats who have seen the still unpublished military "options" approved by the ambassadors on Monday, Serb actions which could trigger air strikes include blockage of aid convoys and attacks on civilians in Sarajevo or elsewhere.

It sounds simple, but in reality the complicated decision-making machinery that has been set up raises questions over how automatic NATO retaliation would be.

NATO officials from Mr. Woerner downwards voiced confidence this week that even though Dr. Ghali has a veto over the start of bombing, the alliance would have little trouble in persuading him to accede to its requests.

Even at the lower level, it

seems that a major say in whether or not the strikes take place will be given to the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia, UNPROFOR, whose senior officers have in recent days spoken sceptically about bombing.

Sitting as it is in the firing line, and concerned above all with the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Bosnians, UNPROFOR has an obvious conflict of interest when it comes to strikes.

Diplomats say operational decisions about strikes will be taken jointly by UNPROFOR Commander General Jean Cot of France and NATO's American commander for Southern Europe, Admiral Jeremy Borda.

But either can block a decision, in which case the dispute is referred upwards to the NATO Council and the U.N. Security Council, where veto-holding powers Russia and China have long been uneasy over military intervention.

All of which will inevitably raise questions about whether NATO's bark is worse than its bite, despite statements by Mr. Woerner that no one should doubt the alliance's "political will to carry out its decisions".

Already NATO is facing questions over why, having taken on the task of enforcing a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia, it has allowed some 250 violations to pass without retaliation.

The need for NATO remains

By Manfred Wörner

BRUSSELS — In the last few months there has been a debate in the United States about North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO's) alleged post-cold war irrelevance, with some calling for the alliance's demise and others for its radical transformation. The truth is that we may need NATO in the coming years more than ever, and that the alliance has already begun to adapt to a changing world.

"NATO remains the backbone of the West's ability to deal collectively with the multiplying threats and instabilities of this new era."

I confess I am astonished by the logic of those who argue that the West's failure to prevent or undo the disaster in ex-Yugoslavia is a reason for undoing the alliance — as if we were to banish doctors for the persistence of illness, or police for the persistence of crime.

Yes, perhaps tragedy could have been averted had NATO been called upon at an earlier stage in the crisis. For the fact is that the alliance has efficiently executed every mission in ex-Yugoslavia with which it has been tasked — enforcing the blockade in the Adriatic and the no-flight zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina,

and now preparing to protect U.N. forces in and around "safe areas" with air power.

Yugoslavia is thus a demonstration of NATO's potential, not of its irrelevance. In a Europe that has grown more turbulent in the post-cold war era, not less.

Of course, to be used efficiently NATO requires the determination and political will of its member countries.

No influential voice in Europe is calling for NATO's demise —

on challenges at home. Indeed, it is in the interests of all America's allies that it strengthen its economy in order to maintain its global leadership, as it is in the interests of America that Europeans accept a greater share of the risks and responsibilities of crisis management.

But America paid a heavy price in succumbing to this same temptation earlier in this century, and it was by engaging itself permanently in Europe through NATO that the United States helped prevent the occurrence of World War III. Today, NATO remains the most effective guarantee against developments which would surely bring American troops, at infinitely greater cost, back to Europe in dire circumstances once again.

As was demonstrated during the Gulf war through NATO's indirect support, it remains the backbone of the West's ability to deal collectively with the multiplying threats and instabilities of this new era.

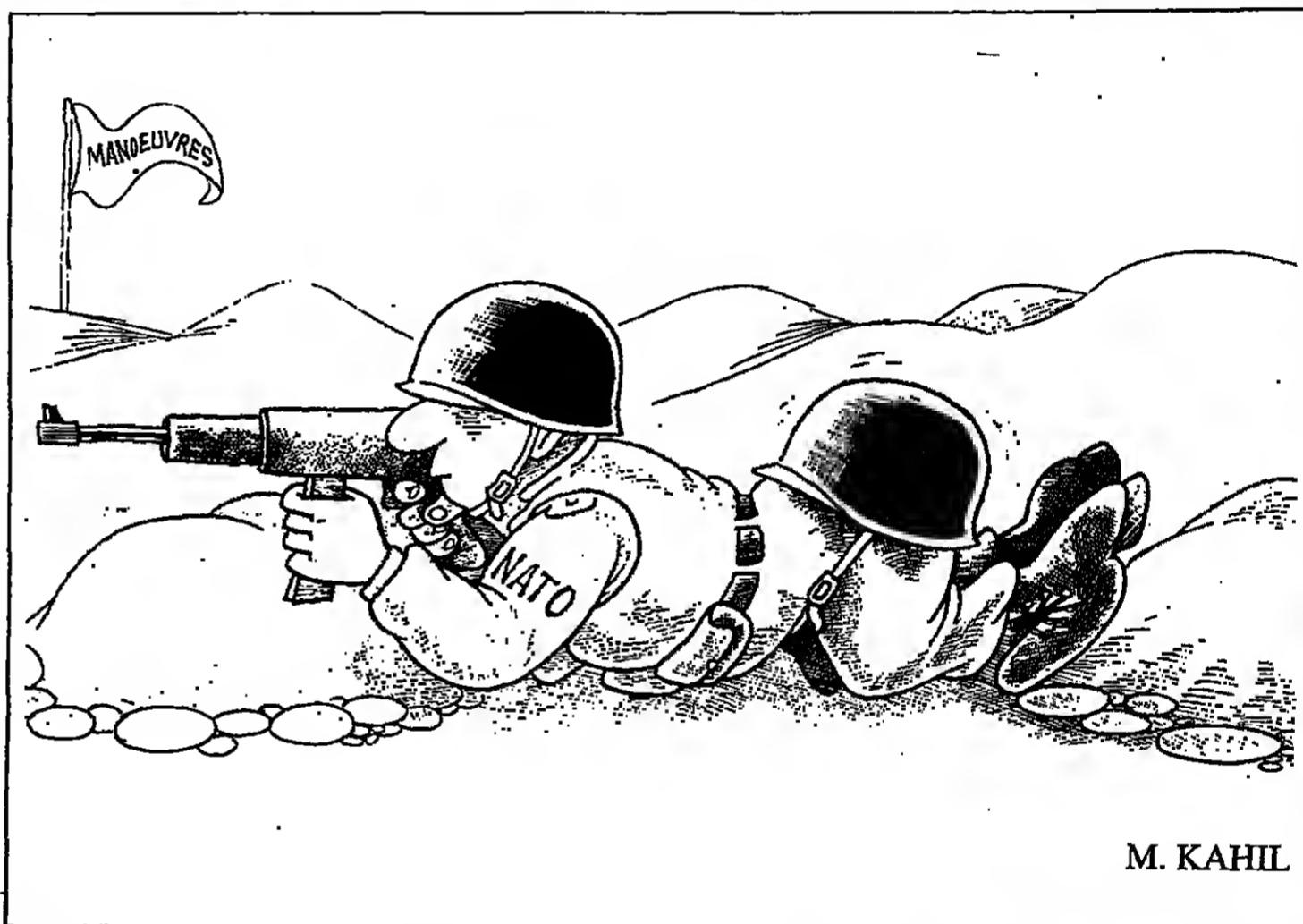
The real question we face is how to adapt NATO to the changed circumstances, and on this, considerable progress has been achieved. In the past three years we have changed our doctrine and our force structure to meet the new challenges of peacekeeping and crisis management — at reduced troop levels and expenditures. We are acting, for the first time in our history, beyond the borders of NATO countries in support of the United Nations in former Yugoslavia.

Most importantly, we have moved to project stability into Eastern Europe and Central Asia by creating the North Atlantic Cooperation Council which joins our 16 members with 22 former adversaries to consult on security issues, promote military restructuring along democratic lines, and cooperate in peacekeeping.

More needs to be done if we are to extend the blessing of peace, cooperation and stability eastwards and thereby prevent further Yugoslavias. But assuming our responsibilities will not be easy at a time when every member state is facing serious economic challenges, and when our publics would rather equate the end of the cold war with an end to all danger.

The only hope in these circumstances is leadership of a kind which, more than four decades ago, established the most successful alliance in history. In taking the initiative of calling for a NATO summit this year to point the way forward, President Bill Clinton has squarely placed us before our responsibilities. For decades from now, history will be the judge of whether and how well we met the call.

The writer is secretary-general of NATO. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.



M. KAHIL

Ahead for the White House — one tough issue after another

By Nancy Benac

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don't turn out the lights in the White House "war room" just yet.

The office where administration officials engineered passages of President Clinton's economic package is being transformed into the health care "war room," symbolizing the next big battle on the horizon.

And the giant task of health-care reform isn't the only challenge that lies ahead for President Clinton now that Congress has approved his budget.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), welfare reform, anti-crime legislation, a second round of budget cuts, the ongoing bloodshed in Bosnia and White House staff cuts all are on the fall agenda.

The hard part is far from over. "For Bill Clinton, I don't think we're ever going to be able to say the hard part is over," said Democratic consultant Ann Lewis. "He doesn't make it look easy."

Given the goals that Mr. Clinton has set for himself, it's doubtful anyone could make it look easy.

In fact, there's even a tug-of-war over what to tackle first. Supporters of the North American Free Trade Agreement want the administration to push the three-nation trade pact through Congress before it sends a health-care plan to Capitol Hill.

But the liftoff of Clinton's health plan already has been pushed back repeatedly from an initial launch date in May, and Democratic legislators have warned the president it would be "difficult and divisive" to put it aside again for NAFTA.

The administration says Con-

gress can proceed on both tracks at once, but each is sure to be contentious — and to test Clinton's political clout, its limits evident in the slim margins by which Congress approved his economic plan without even one Republican vote.

"Rather than the budget being the war to end all wars, it's really a skirmish along the way," said political analyst Stuart Rothenberg.

Mr. Clinton will set the tone for his health-care effort in an Aug. 16 speech to the nation's governors in Tulsa, Okla., and to unveil his plan to a joint session of Congress in late September.

His goals are lofty: cut soaring costs to government, business and individuals, extend coverage to the 37 million uninsured and provide more secure health coverage to all.

Organised labour — backed by the pitched lectures from Ross Perot — is going all out to defeat the trade pact as harmful to U.S. workers, while business interests rally behind it.

The Clinton administration could well have more friends in the Republican caucus than within its own ranks on NAFTA. But so far, he doesn't have enough votes of either stripe.

Mr. Dole said on NBC network's "Meet the Press" on Sunday that he had spoken to Mr. Clinton and suggested that "there are other issues coming down the road we're going to be working together on. The big one is going to be North American Free Trade Agreement, where I believe you'll see the Republicans providing more votes than Democrats."

The tragic fight that he's had to get the votes for his economic package does not augur well for him on NAFTA, said Mark Anderson of the AFL-CIO, the

largest American trade federation.

Also on Mr. Clinton's fall agenda:

— Crime. The administration hopes to unveil a crime bill this week that would control handgun purchases, expand the federal death penalty and put more police on streets. "That's a good middle-American issue," says Mr. Rothenberg. "It's one way for Clinton to reclaim the title of 'new democrat'."

— Welfare reform. Mr. Clinton vows to "end welfare as we know it." An administration task force holds its first hearing this week and hopes to craft legislation by year. The White House wants to expand education and training, and limit the time welfare recipients can collect benefits.

— Reinventing government. Vice President Al Gore next month recommends ways to make government more efficient. They may be Mr. Clinton's source for a promised second round of budget cuts.

— White House staff. Mr. Clinton set an Oct. 1 deadline for slashing the White House staff by 25 percent. "You can always use a few extra hands around here, but we said we'd do it and we'll get it done," says Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

— Bosnia. Mr. Clinton's "most difficult foreign policy problem" has proved intractable. The United States and NATO allies are threatening air strikes on Bosnian Serb targets amid debate over whether that would help end the bloodshed or prolong it.

— The unexpected. Just as thorny matters like gays in the military mushroomed out of nowhere to sidetrack the administration in its early days, the White House is keenly aware of unexpected pitfalls may well lie ahead.

Croatian fortunes fall as Bosnian war drags on

By Mark Heinrich

Reuters

ZAGREB — The fortunes of Bosnian Croats and "mother Croatia" next door have taken a fall as the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina drags on with no solution in sight.

Not long ago, the Croats were consolidating a mini-state within southwest Bosnia "ethnically cleansed" of Muslims while the world's attention was gripped by Serb depredations elsewhere in the republic.

When peace mediators unveiled a plan for 10 autonomous cantons cut along ethnic lines, Bosnia's Croats signed on fast because they stood to get land disproportionate to their share of the population and ratify their conquests.

But the European Community and United Nations-backed plan foundered on the resistance of Serbs and Muslims who stood to be shortchanged relative to their population or control of territory — and the Croats have been on the run ever since.

Bosnian government forces, unable to recover Muslim land from the militarily superior Serbs, have snatched back swathes of central Bosnia from Croat separatists in an offensive yielding their first major victories of the war.

Political analysts say the intoxicating new military success has encouraged Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic not to negotiate seriously in renewed peace talks in Geneva on splitting Bosnia into three confederated states.

And Croats have suffered the worst strategic, diplomatic and economic fallout from the prolonged fighting, although some of the damage has been self-inflicted, they say.

In response to government

army gains, Croat Militia Forces (HVO) have expelled Muslims en masse from Bosnia's southwest Herzegovina region and blocked U.N. aid convoys destined for 1.5 million civilians in the centre.

Croatia, because it has bankrolled and armed the HVO throughout the war, has been threatened with European Community sanctions if Croats abuse in Bosnia-Herzegovina do not stop.

Zagreb moved closer to the brink of sanctions last month when at least 500 Bosnian Muslims were shunted to government refugee camps in Croatia, diplomats say.

At the same time, an anti-Muslim backlash prompted roundups of hundreds of refugees already here and the deportation of some to Bosnia in apparent contravention of international humanitarian law.

"The HVO's ethnic cleansing campaigns and their obstruction of U.N. convoys were leading Croatia down a very slippery slope and they came very close to being hit with sanctions," said a Zagreb-based diplomat.

Since then, diplomats say, the sanctions spectre has receded because President Franjo Tudjman appears to have scaled back support for the HVO — despite the pressure of rightist Herzegovina Croats in his cabinet for more intervention.

In the process, however, Mr. Tudjman damaged his own strategic purpose of bolstering the HVO against resurgent Muslim forces.

"A lot of Croats would love to write off the Herzegovina Croats now for having dragged this country down into the gutter," a diplomat told Reuters.

"Croats here and in Bosnia find themselves in a very complex

and difficult situation now. For them, these are the dog days of August in more than one sense of the word."

Continued fighting in Bosnia is also the most daunting obstacle to a recovery and modernisation of Croatia's economy, gravely damaged by its 1991 war against the Yugoslav army for independence from the Serbian-dominated federation.

Inflation is running at almost 2,000 per cent annually, inflated by military spending to counter Serb rebels still holding a third of Croatia and by the cost of caring for more than 500,000 Bosnian and Croatian war refugees.

Serb separatist rebels in the Krajina enclave of Croatia, supplied along a Serb-held corridor through north Bosnia from Serbia proper, prevent Zagreb from reviving once-lucrative tourism on the nearby Dalmatian coast.

Krajina Serbs last week shelled and sank a new bridge built by Mr. Tudjman to reconnect the coastal highway after he reneged on an agreement to demilitarise it under U.N. supervision, demanding that the Serbs disarm first.

Tudjman assumed the Serbs would make this concession despite no mention of it in the text, said Slaven Leticia, a former adviser to the president and now an opposition critic.

"This was a total miscalculation. It's in the interest of (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic to keep Krajina Serbs in a low-intensity conflict with Croatia to block its economic recovery," said Mr. Leticia.

The bridge fiasco, combined with persistent random Serb shelling of Dalmatia, may have deepened a still muted popular discontent with Croatia's progress in recovering from war and forging links with western Europe.

1 AUGUST 12
r
ns
engages at home...
interests of all...
in order to be...
leadership...
of America...
accept a...
management...
America paid...
able to...
earlier in the...
by engage...
in Europe...
prevent the...
War III. The...
the most...
against de...
could surely...
as, in fact...
to Europe...
as demon...
if war thro...
support, it...
of the West...
actively wi...
treats and...
era.
real ques...
adapt Nati...
circumstan...
considered...
nerved. In...
have chan...
our forces...
the new ch...
sping and...
at reduced...
inductures...
first time...
the border...
in support...
in format...
important...
o project...
Europe and...
the North...
Council...
members...
ies to cons...
romote mil...
long democ...
erate in pro...
needs to be...
extend the...
cooperation...
and there...
l'ugoslav...
responsibil...
time when...
is facing...
lenges, and...
ould rather...
a cold war...
only hope...
es is head...
more than...
slished the...
in history...
ative of...
amit this...
forward, the...
squadron...
responsib...
from now...
of what...
net the...
is secretary...
The article...
Interne...
all...
s on...
ult situat...
se are the...
move that...
ued fight...
not disman...
y and mod...
economy...
1991 was...
army for...
Serbian...
is running...
cent annu...
y spending...
is still hold...
nd by the...
than 300...
than war...
parous ne...
ness or (G...
is a Serb...
with Bosn...
event Zag...
Dalmat...
Serbs has...
a new en...
man to...
showing...
ment to...
the Serb...
an assoc...
ke this...
eminent...
en Lena...
the pres...
tion...
is a total...
in the...
vide...
to keep...
intensity...
black...
and Mr...
dear...
steer...
Dalmat...
and...
with...
renewed...
e finds...

Weekender

Did Mark Twain base Huck Finn on a black child?

By Andrea Orr
Reuter

NEW YORK — Writers from Ernest Hemingway to William Faulkner, who paid homage to Mark Twain for creating an American literary style, may not have realised how much African-American voices influenced Twain's work, and their own.

When Twain let the 14-year-old main character in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* deliver his story in a thick Missouri dialect full of grammatical errors, he paved the way for other writers to do away with formality and let their characters speak in their own unrefined voices.

But recent research suggests Twain based the white character Huck Finn on a black child he once met could force scholars to reconsider the roots of American literature.

In her new book *Was Huck Black?* (Oxford University Press), Shelly Fisher Fishkin asserts that Twain patterned Huckleberry Finn's sassy yet poetic speech after that of a young black servant he encountered while travelling on a lecture circuit.

The boy's language so impressed Twain that he wrote about it in letters home and later, in a newspaper article.

"It is an interesting and provocative theory," said



Mark Twain

Justin Kaplan, author of the biography *Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain*. "What troubles me a little is the fragility of the chain of Fishkin's argument, which pins so much on this one article."

Twain's given name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Kaplan said Fishkin's thesis "is not quite so revolutionary as she says" since it was often observed in the 19th century that many slaves sounded exactly like their masters.

But he said *Was Huck Black?* makes the point that while the black contribution to American music has been generally acknowledged, scholars have been less willing to recognise any such influence on the American verbal idiom.

Fishkin, a professor of American studies at University of Texas, now plans to expand her research to other works of American fiction, which she says also deserve to be re-examined for "multiple strands of influence."

"African-American speech was known for its directness, grace and simplicity, and Twain helped open American literature to that kind of language," Fishkin told Reuters in a recent interview.

"To the extent we understand Twain as having had a major influence on Hemingway and other writers, we

black writers from black ones," she writes in her book.

When Twain published *Huckleberry Finn*, the story of a white boy and a runaway slave who drift down the Mississippi River together in a raft, he claimed to have found inspiration for Huck in a white boy named Tom Blakenship, the free-spirited son of the drunkard in his hometown.

But Fishkin observed that Twain never indicated there was anything memorable about the way Tom Blakenship spoke. When she came across *Sociable Jimmy*, a New York Times article Twain had written about the engaging black servant, she saw a written dialogue so vivid it talked — and sounded a lot like Huck.

Twain called Jimmy "the most artless, sociable and exhaustless talker I ever came across."

Fishkin combed *Sociable Jimmy* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* for linguistic similarities, and came up with a convincing argument that Huck's memorable narrative was based largely on Jimmy and some other black voices.

Jimmy and Huck, she found, share many unconventional speech forms, including the use of adjectives where adverbs belong. Huck says "I was most powerful



Son, tell your mother not to worry about food tonight: the government is cooking something for the whole country!

BETWEEN ACCOLADES AND FIRE: "Al Nahdhah", which means "awakening" or "revival" in Arabic, came into the limelight long before news about its imminent publication as a new Jordanian daily was printed in Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times on Aug. 7. Because the founders of the newspaper include a number of senior officials, prominent among them Royal Court chief Khaled Al Karaki and Director General Mutair Durrah as well as like-minded intellectuals who are now occupying important positions of power, it was inevitable that the new publication would be greeted with some real gossip and scepticism. The initial news instantly ignited one of the biggest gossip mills ever witnessed. Even before the minister of information recommended the licensing of the paper, renegade columnist Fahd Rimawi started referring to a deal in the making where the "cultured elite" were about to sell their pens for money. Less daring writers and commentators naturally did not go that far, but were no less inquisitive about what was really happening. They were debating whether the founders would now have to leave their posts or devote a full-time effort towards starting the newspaper. And if they were going to resign, who would take over their positions in the Royal Court and elsewhere in the government. Rimawi's biting article in the Akhbar Al Usbuh weekly asked whether "the educated in our country have become a product for sale or a map to polish the court?" He went on to say this about his former colleagues and comrades: "We can bet that this journalistic project, which is financed by others, (and run by this) 'intellectual mafia', which sold its principles and used its position, will not be successful even if a billion was spent on it, and will not win popular support even if Taha Hussein (the renowned Arab intellectual and writer) wrote in it and will not have a political role even if they rented a million readers for it." The founders never publicly took Rimawi to task over what he had written, and that is why perhaps another critical writer chose to put pen to paper over the same issue. Under the theme "the intellectual and the ruler," Dr. Fahd Faneh, writing in his daily column in Al Ra'i Wednesday, said that "at one time there was an absolute divorce between the (Arab) intellectual and the ruler. Since that time, however, things have become different: The intellectuals have become soldiers in the camp of the ruler, who rewards them with money and position. Gone are the days of using the stick (by the ruler)," Mr. Faneh continued. "For there is no one around today who needs it."

Bianca Jagger — from rock star wife to political activist

By Patricia Reaney
Reuter

LONDON — It's a long way from the lavish restaurants and swish nightspots of Manhattan to the deadly streets of Tuzla and Sarajevo, but Bianca Jagger is a seasoned traveller.

Her journey from former rock star wife and stalwart of New York's glitterati to political activist is not yet over — and could lead to a starring role in Central American politics as she has not ruled out a bid for the presidency of her native Nicaragua in 1996.

"I have always been involved in the politics in Nicaragua. I have been a political voice inside the country," said the elegant ex-wife of Rolling Stone Mick Jagger.

"What kind of role I would like to play in the future I do not know yet, but I want to play a role in Nicaragua," she said in an interview at one of London's most expensive hotels.

Dressed in a white designer trouser suit with her public relations man nearby, the Latin beauty who admits to being 43 refused to be drawn

further on her political ambitions.

Instead she preferred to concentrate on the reason for her visit — winning undisclosed damages from Simon And Schuster Ltd, publishers of *The Andy Warhol Diaries*.

Ms. Jagger claimed remarks about her lifestyle in the book about New York's jet set in the decadent decade before Warhol's death in 1987 when Studio 54 was the place to be seen and cocaine was the drug of choice were damaging and defamatory.

She makes hundreds of appearances in the 800-page diaries, alongside Liza Minnelli, Madonna, Jack Nicholson, Elizabeth Taylor and Roman Polanski. Now Ms. Jagger wants to be recognised for her human rights work and has been at pains to distance herself from the party-girl image.

"I have been doing human rights work since 1972," she said.

"Since then I have testified to (the U.S.) Congress and worked with refugees. It seems as I grow and as my life distances from what some people would like to have im-



Bianca Jagger shows an ethnic map of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Human Rights Commission earlier this year after returning from an 11-day stay in that war-torn country (AFP photo)

straight by writing her own biography.

"Experiences can only add to who you are and who you become. You can take the good with the bad and use it to grow and become better, to grow up."

New video warns Japanese of dangers of overwork

By Gareth Jones
Reuter

TOKYO — When Toshitsugu Yagi won promotion in his advertising firm, he started coming home from the office every evening at midnight or later.

Showing the loyalty and commitment that Japanese companies generally expect of their employees, Yagi sometimes worked all night. At times he had to stay at a hotel near his firm. He also worked on his holidays.

Just a year after his promotion, Yagi collapsed with a heart attack and died. He was 43.

His is one of several cases highlighted in a recent video, about "karoshi" — death from overwork — which lawyers say claims as many as 10,000 Japanese lives a year, the same number as those killed

in traffic accidents.

Karoshi occurs most commonly in workplaces where jobs require extremely strenuous effort and where people work without the help of other employees.

It usually refers to acute heart-failure following high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis or a cerebral haemorrhage.

However, families of karoshi victims have discovered that winning official recognition of the cause of their bereavement — and thus the right to financial compensation — is not easy.

Japan's Labour Ministry told Mitsue Yagi that her husband did not die from overwork because he had worked hard every day for years and so was used to the lifestyle, the video said.

Moreover, a victim of karoshi has to have been working double the normal working hours just one week previous to death for compensation to be granted, it ruled.

Mr. Yagi's death could not be covered by his insurance policy because he was only working three to four hours overtime a day in the week before he died.

"The ministry had completely disregarded the fact that my husband had been returning home late almost every night for months," his widow said on the video.

Daiken Jwata's daughter died aged 23 after an asthmatic attack triggered by overwork. He filed a lawsuit against her employer, Fuji Bank, for 98 million yen (\$942,307) damages.

"I found it difficult to believe that Fuji Bank, one of the most famous banks in the world, paid so little attention to the lives of the people working in its own offices,"

Mr. Iwata said.

Closely associated with Japanese workaholic habits, karoshi has attracted growing international attention. It has even earned a place, along with a handful of other Japanese words like karaoke, in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Lawyer Toshiro Ueyanagi is concerned that the deadly phenomenon may become yet another Japanese export.

"Karoshi is thought of as primarily a Japanese problem, but we are worried that Japanese firms setting up overseas have in effect begun exporting karoshi, through their system of long working hours and few holidays," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ueyanagi works for a hotline called the National Defence Counsel for Victims of Karoshi, which collaborated in the making of the Karoshi documentary.

Since it began five years ago, the hotline has received over 3,000 calls.

Families of victims often find their path blocked because labour agreements between management and unions can easily sidestep legislation protecting workers, the lawyer said.

Japan's snail-paced justice system deters many claimants, too. "About 600 people filed for compensation last year but only 30 have so far earned recognition as victims of karoshi," Mr. Ueyanagi said.

The karoshi problem shows no signs of waning despite Japan's economic slowdown.

"Many workers are working harder than ever, often doing unpaid overtime, due to the recession and staff cutbacks," he said.

The Karoshi video, made

XENOPHOBIA, KNIGHTS AND THE MEDIA: When Mrs. Ann Sawalha wrote a letter to the editor of this newspaper complaining about the state of public lavatories on Jordanian border points, little did she know what lay in store for her. Or she probably did but did not say it. Basically it was a bit of an ordeal with a happy ending. The story began when Mrs. Sawalha's well-intended letter was, well, "taken out of context" by a member of the public who lashed back at her "audacity" to complain at all. Forget the lavatories, said the gist of the letter by Col. (Ret.) Nasser Mirza. Jordanians, or more specifically those married to Jordanians, have to keep counting their blessings and utter nothing else. But the government, God bless its soul, thought the negative reaction was totally unwarranted. While a debate was raging on the pages of the Jordan Times and inside Jordanian homes and offices, Mrs. Sawalha was being contacted quietly by both the Minister of Health, Abdul Rahim Malhas, and the Minister of Tourism, Yanal Hikmat, to thank her for the concern she had shown about the border lavatories, promising immediate action to remedy the problem. Mrs. Sawalha, who wrote a third letter to the paper to inform us of the late development, said: "It is gratifying to discover that a small effort on the part of a private citizen was greeted with such a positive official response." So it seems that it pays to speak out, even if some of us don't think so.

Nermeen Murad
(Continued on page 5)

Johnny Clegg, Savuka singing about change

By Dean Goodman
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — As a white South African who has easily in his country's black culture, Johnny Clegg stands out.

But what gives him added stature is the fact that he has become South Africa's top-selling musician by singing tunes that help bridge the country's racial divide.

Throughout his 17-year career Clegg, who speaks and composes in Zulu and dances three styles of traditional dance, has faced more obstacles than the average musician could ever imagine in order to pursue his craft.

Clegg was first arrested at 15 for being in a black area where he was picking up his skills from street musicians. Over the years as his fame grew, the South African gov-

ernment restricted and censored his performances.

Ignoring Clegg's hatred of apartheid, the United Nations and the British Musicians' Union once blacklisted him because of his place of residence. And if all that hasn't been enough, in the past four years, Clegg has been a mentor and a band member, victims of South Africa's violence.

Yet all this time Clegg, now 39, pursued his pioneering role by blending rock-'n-roll with traditional Zulu pop style and adding his own Celtic influences for good measure.

Long before mainstream musicians like Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel hitched on to the commercial possibilities of African music, Clegg and his multiracial hand-picked band were turning cult audiences all over the world on to their unique brand.

Now that South Africa has moved to dismantle apartheid and is stumbling towards democracy, Clegg and his longtime band Savuka (Zulu for "We Have Arisen") have just begun a world tour in support of an album that is about change.

Heat Dust And Dreams (Capitol), perhaps his most mainstream offering to date, inevitably refers to life on the African continent, but it also offers a philosophical framework that can apply to anyone's circumstances.

"I'm living in a place which is changing very, very quickly with, at times, maximum violence," Clegg says. "It's hard to give up something that you've been for a long time for something that you don't know will happen. So all these issues are dealt with in the context of political and social change."

For all his experiences as a

focal point in a warring country, Clegg keenly resists any attempt to portray him as some kind of political activist.

"I'm a cultural activist. I'm somebody who at one point was politically motivated and then realised I wasn't tough enough to enter the arena of politics," he said in a recent interview with Reuters.

"I wasn't tough enough to take the lies, I wasn't tough enough to take the political strategies, I wasn't tough enough to say one thing today and then tomorrow have to say, 'well the party line's changed, so let's do this.'"

"Cultural activists tend to be more aware of contradictions, far more aware of ambiguity and paradoxes. My standard joke is that the difference between a political activist and a cultural activist is that a political activist tells the cultural activist what to

sing."

So Clegg sticks to the music which, in itself, is a refreshingly small part of a life dominated by family, friends and his own other spiritual and personal interests.

Already the album, whose first single These Days is produced by respected musician Don Was, is doing well in Canada, and in the western and northeastern parts of the United States.

From the stark chant Yashimbawula that opens These Days through the flagrant song Tough Enough ("are you tough enough, can you take the heat") to the self-explanatory final track Your Time Will Come, Clegg is a man with a message.

But some listeners may be surprised at the shortage of real African sounds, such as proliferated on previous

offerings. Clegg in his typically stoic way says: "Well, that's tough y'know. I don't play African music, I don't play Western music, I play my own weird mixture of it."

Underscoring the album is a certain optimism as South Africa prepares to elect an interim government next April. Clegg, with his vast working knowledge of South Africa's cultures, takes a philosophical view of how the carnage affects him.

"My music is really an attempt to get away from a kind of numbness that I sometimes feel — which is what a lot of South Africans feel. It's like a blanketing out mechanism that you have, there's just too much happening that you don't hear it anymore. So the music is kind of an inner dialogue as well to get beyond that."



Johnny Clegg and friend perform a Zulu dance during a recent concert

Filmmakers head north for popular Alaska themes

By Vereth Rosen
Reuter

PALMER, Alaska — On a ridge overlooking the spectacular Knik Glacier, some movie stars lounge in the shade during a filming break.

These are no ordinary actors. They are furry and four-legged, perfect for Alaska, a location and theme now in vogue in Hollywood. They are trained wolverines sharing the lead in One Paw, an independent feature targeted for a Christmas release.

"Alaska plays into the popular genre right now of outdoor family films," said Steve Kroschel, the Minnesota animal trainer-turned-filmmaker producing the film being shot here, some 40 miles (65 km) northeast of

Anchorage.

"This is really the last frontier. This is the last stronghold of the wolverine. The wolverine film had to be done here. I wanted it to be real. I wanted it to be authentic," he said.

It could be the environmental activism awakened by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, or it could be the popularity of CBS television's hit series Northern Exposure, or it could be just a fad.

Whatever the reason, Alaska's popularity is sweet for Mary Pignalberi, head of the Alaska Tourism Division's film office. She has spent years trying to create warm feelings about the coldest U.S. state.

She has argued that Alaska's round-the-clock summer

daylight, guaranteed snow scenes on glaciers and unmatched scenery outweigh the state's high costs, sparse labour market and sometimes rustic conditions.

She has set up a fake glacier at a trade show and authorised three-dimensional billboards in Los Angeles with roaring bears and jumping salmon urging moviemakers to "Film Alaska: It's Hot."

Pignalberi says Northern Exposure, even though it is filmed near Seattle, aids her work.

"I think it does put that spark there — for a funky look or a new-type location, what about Alaska?" she said.

Alaska has been a movie subject in the past, starting

with Charlie Chaplin's 1925 classic The Gold Rush. But usually other sites — the Rocky Mountains, the Sierras, Canada and, inexplicably, the Arizona Desert — stood in for Alaska as the filming location.

That may account for some glaring errors in past Alaska movies: Pitch-black summer nights, igloos, which are foreign to Alaska Eskimos, and Canadian Mounties patrolling the biggest U.S. state.

Alaska's recent movie era began with the 1985 prison-break thriller Runaway Train, filmed along the Alaska Railroad tracks south of Anchorage.

In 1990, the state had a filmmaking flurry. The Disney feature White

Fang and an award-winning independent feature, Salmonberries, starring singer K.D. Lang, were both made here then. Filmmakers dropped \$9 million in the state that fiscal year, Pignalberi said.

Other recent Alaska projects included Leaving Normal, a feature released last year starring Meg Tilly and Christine Lahti, and a Rob Reiner production titled North, still in the works.

In fiscal year 1993, ending June 30, filmmakers pumped another estimated \$9 million in the state, Pignalberi said.

At least \$5 million was from Warner Brothers' On Deadly Ground, an action-adventure directed and starring Steven Seagal, she said. Seagal insisted that his

movie, about an oil worker battling an evil oil executive played by Michael Caine, be filmed in Alaska, film publicist Tom Gray said.

Potentially cheaper locations like Montana and Wyoming were rejected for the Alaska town of Valdez, where On Deadly Ground recently ended six weeks of filming, Gray said.

"He wanted that majestic look that Alaska has," Gray said. "He was really adamant about shooting in Alaska."

Seagal also insisted on cultural accuracy, Gray said.

An acting novice — Irvin Brink, a Yup'ik Eskimo tribal chief from Kasigluk, a southwestern Alaska village — was cast in an important role, and the Yup'ik language is spoken in On Deadly

Ground, Gray said.

For One Paw, Kroschel cast a local boy as the human lead.

"I looked all over the country for this boy and I found him right here in Anchorage. It was kind of a fluke," Kroschel said of Jesse Montgomery-Smythe, who plays a boy who befriends the wolverine.

Relations between filmmakers and locals are sometimes rocky, though.

The city of Valdez is haggling with Warner Brothers over \$130,000 in unpaid bills.

In 1990, Hollywood and Alaska cultures clashed fiercely in Haines, the south-east Alaska town where White Fang, based loosely on a Jack London tale about a

domesticated wolf, was filmed.

Filmmakers had difficulty convincing residents to abandon commercial fishing for low-wage movie-support jobs. They were furious at weather delays and local pilots who refused to fly in bad conditions, frightened by moose wandering into town and frustrated by Alaska's isolation.

One White Fang manager drew snickers by insisting that his tailored flannel shirts be handwashed.

Work on a White Fang sequel is now under way — in Canada, to Pignalberi's chagrin.

"I hate to lose any of them, but the reality is that we do lose a few," she said.

Sequel to Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca out in September

By Christine Pouget
Agence France Presse

AFTER the planetary success of *Scarlett*, which continues the story of *Gone With the Wind*, it was only a matter of time before publishers had the idea of commissioning a sequel to another romantic best-seller, Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

"Mr. And Mr. De Win-

ter", hits the bookshelves this autumn, on Sept. 25, penned by British novelist Susan Hill, 55 years after the original and already translated into 22 languages.

Rights were negotiated at the last Frankfurt Book Fair. The book is being published by Morrow in the United States, Albin Michel in French-speaking countries, and Sinclair-Stevenson in

Britain. Editions are being planned in German, Italian, Bulgarian, Danish, Czech and Slovak, Chinese, Dutch, Greek, Hebrew, Korean, Polish and Thai.

Susan Hill is English, like the author of *Rebecca*. Born in Yorkshire in 1942 (four years after the novel was published), she shares a love of the English countryside with Du Maurier.

She wrote several novels in

her twenties, then gave up, turning to other writing. After a 16-year-break, she returned with *Air And Angels*, in 1991, which was a critical and popular success. She was the choice of Daphne du Maurier's children to write a sequel to their mother's book.

During her life, Daphne du Maurier resisted all those who wanted her to continue the story which ends with the

De Winter family mansion, Manderley, burning down. Curtis Brown, the agency which negotiated the rights, said her family had also felt that the spirit of *Rebecca* should remain intact until the right author, up to the task, was found.

The inheritors of the novelist's estate may however have had their convictions shaken when they saw what a fortune Margaret Mitchell's heirs

made from *Scarlett*, who made sure the sequel was written during copyright, before it fell into the public domain and would not have brought them in a cent.

Rebecca has sold more than 20 million copies around the world and been translated in 27 languages. It was adapted for the screen by Hitchcock, with Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine and Judith Anderson in the lead-

ing roles.

The History of Maxime de Winter and his new wife, his first wife Rebecca having died in mysterious circumstances, has held generations enthralled. Millions of readers, putting down the book, have felt haunted by unanswered questions. What was going to happen to the couple now? Would they ever manage to exorcise the ghost of Rebecca?

Publishers are keeping the book under wraps until its world launch. All that they will let out is that Susan Hill takes them on a journey to Europe before they return to England.

As in the case of *Scarlett*, secrecy is an important ingredient in the success of the operation, which is more about making money than literature.

TV celebrity launches cosmetics line for Asians

By Farida Burtis

NEW YORK — As the host of the television documentary series, *One World*, Yue-Sai Kan is a household name in China. Capitalising on her fame, she recently launched her own line of cosmetics in China for the exclusive use of Asians.

"We used Shanghai as a test market and made a profit in the first 30 days," said 45-year-old, China-born Kan in an interview in her six-story Georgian townhouse in New York's exclusive Sutton Place. Although she did not specify the profits of her new business, she said, "Our products already outsell the competition."

Yue-Sai Kan, Ltd., cosmetics are sold in department stores in five Chinese cities — Peking, Tianjin, Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Shanghai. "We have four warehouses and offices in every city," Kan said. "We have not even started wholesale or direct sales, which provide marvelous possibilities."

By September, her cosmetics will be sold in two other cities — Nanjing and the northeastern coastal city of Dalian. Future plans include expansion into at least 10 major markets in mainland China, as well as in the U.S. and other Asian markets. A fashion clothing line and accessories are expected to follow.

"I gave them the world on television. Now I am giving them the world again," said Kan, who came to the U.S. in

1970 and became a citizen in 1975. She says years of cultural repression have produced an eagerness among the Chinese to try new fashion styles and cosmetics.

In 1980, Kan started producing and hosting the programme, *Looking East*, in New York for cable television. It provided American viewing audiences with insight and perspectives into Asian culture. By 1992, *Looking East* aired on the Discovery Channel to more than 51 million viewers in America.

Her break came in 1984 when WNET, Boston's Public Broadcasting Station, asked her to provide an English narration of the 35th anniversary of the Communist revolution for a joint venture with China's central TV. Chinese officials were impressed by her sympathetic narration and asked her to host *One World*, a series aimed at bringing the outside world to the Chinese. She signed a contract with the Chinese in 1984, and three years later *One World* began.

"For a number of years I produced concurrently in America and in China," she said. "It robbed me of any personal life."

She produced 104 episodes of *One World* from 1987-1990 for an audience of 400 million Chinese. Adoring crowds, eager to catch a glimpse of what happens in the Western World, mobbed her in Tiananmen Square and at the Great Wall. Subjects of Kan's television series in-



Chinese-born Yue-Sai Kan, seen here with the mayor of Shanghai, produces and distributes cosmetics specifically made for Asian women

cluded New York skyscrapers, a baseball stadium and interviews with the French prime minister and the Pope. One episode of the series was entitled *Denmark: Love, Marriage and Women's Roles*.

"Many people ask me how I can be so interested in cosmetics when I am interested in East-West cultural interchange," explained Kan. "It is another form of cultural exchange."

Her cosmetics are formulated in the U.S. Some are manufactured in the U.S. and others in China. "I want to have the best technology and the best ingredients we can find and make them into the finest colours and best products for Oriental women," she said. "We think we use the best formulas and the best formulations."

Asian women have difficulty finding cosmetics that are suitable for their skins. "A

bronze lipstick will look sensational on someone who is blonde and blue-eyed," Kan said. "but if I use that lipstick, I look as if I am dead. It brings out the yellow of my skin. For years I combed through cosmetic counters to find colours that are easy for me to use. I couldn't find them because what is good for white women is wrong for Asians."

Kan says Chinese women are just beginning to use

make-up. "They will travel the same path I did because the products are not made for Oriental women." Cosmetics manufactured by Yue-Sai Kan Cosmetics, Ltd., however, have been tested to enhance yellow skin tones and specific facial features.

Kan's husband, James McManus, whom she married in 1990, helped her put the cosmetics company together. "He makes sure I don't make big mistakes," she said. "He says I have 12 good ideas every day, but I've got to hold back."

McManus, who owns 12 companies, is her financial manager.

Her line of cosmetics includes foundations, moisturiser, creams and lotions made with Chinese herbs. She has a perfume called *First Love* and nine lipsticks and matching nail polishes in shades of red, orange and pink. She also recommends a gilt lip polish for highlighting.

"The cosmetics have my name on them. They better be terrific," Kan said. Her name is written in calligraphy in Chinese on each of the 32 items of her line of cosmetics. Next to the Chinese calligraphy, in subdued lettering, her name is imprinted in English. The packaging of the cosmetics is by French-born designer Georges Gottlieb.

Kan employs a staff of 150 and expects the number to increase to 200 by the end of the year. She alternates three months at a time in China with five weeks in the U.S. About 70 per cent of her time

is spent travelling. She laments not being able to stay in New York for longer periods to enjoy her home.

"This house is gigantic. My husband must be terribly lonely alone in this house," she said. "It is tremendously hard because I am gone for long periods of time." During her last visit to China, McManus visited her twice. "He travels a lot himself," she said, referring to her husband's business enterprises. "This is something we expected."

As part of her efforts in launching her cosmetics business, Kan has created a television series entitled *Yue-Sai's World*. The 18-part series will be aired on local television stations in China. "It gives the Chinese a deeper understanding of world culture — etiquette, fashion, music, lifestyle and travel," she explained. She has also produced an 85-minute video, "Guide to Asian Beauty," and is ready to launch her 150-page book of the same name, published by Shanghai San Lian Publishing House.

"I have never seen a group of people so enthusiastic about what is happening in their own country and more eager to be capitalistic than the Chinese," Kan said. "I am in the middle of a revolution. As a television producer and host, you can't really get that deep, but now I am in the fabric of the society."

"I am trying to catch up with what is happening in China," she said. "Every day

there is more decentralisation. Things are becoming more open." Although there are a few dissatisfied people, "people are energised by the entire movement. It is very exciting."

Born in Guilin in China's Guangxi province, Kan is the eldest of four daughters of the wealthy Kan family that fled to Hong Kong after the Communist takeover in 1949. She attended college at Brigham Young University in Hawaii, where she studied music. She entertained ambitions of becoming a concert pianist but abandoned the idea after concluding she lacked the talent to reach the top.

In 1971, Kan came to New York with \$150 to stay for a week with a former high school classmate and has remained ever since. For the first eight years, she hosted interviews for a Chinese cable television station in New York. The station had no money to pay her, but she learned the art of appearing on camera.

In 1975, Kan and her younger sister borrowed \$25,000 from their parents to set up an import-export business named Gaijin. Although Gaijin was successful in the business of "silk, typewriter ribbons, pillows and clothing," Kan spent most of her time with her television station job. In 1980, she sold her share of the business to her sister for \$500,000 and started the company that produced *Looking East* — World News Link.

Practice your backhand

By Jean-Claude Elias

The continuous improvement in modern computer technology is giving both the corporate and the private users more powerful equipment and better, more performing software. Though the figures of 1991 and 1992 seem to indicate that software companies (Microsoft mainly) are becoming more profitable than hardware manufacturers (Olivetti and IBM reported huge losses for the same period), still the Information Technology (IT) industry is more than healthy and the demand undiminished.

There is however a clear gap between the quality and the power of the technology available to us from one side and the efficiency with which we are using it from the other. The first is constantly well ahead of the second. The IT industry cannot be blamed for that. How can you blame a manufacturer for designing faster, better, cheaper machines? Or a software company for giving you new programmes, easier to use?

Having been involved for the past ten years in training people on using their PCs (personal computers), I have come to the obvious conclusion that only a small fraction reach a level of proficiency whereby they can actually claim to master the topic they are handling, whether word processing, spreadsheet or any other well known software.

At the risk of shocking some, I would say that the average PC user could really do without a PC! Take Word Processing (WP) for instance. One of the basics of WP is the Cut & Paste function, and yet you will find many people typing the same paragraph or section over and over instead of using this simple yet powerful function. I won't even mention advanced features like Applying Stylesheets or Linking Documents.

When running Spreadsheets (Lotus 123, Excel, Quattro, ...) countless tasks can be simplified if one takes a little time to learn how to write Macro Commands. How many do?

chip talk



Using computers superficially is a nonsense. One might as well do the work manually. It is of prime importance to become proficient, "fluent" with computers. It is only then that the process is rewarding and worthwhile. The user who aspires at using his or her PC efficiently can take two very simple steps towards computer paradise.

Firstly, one should get to know the software in depth. Go through a systematic course in order to learn or at least be ware of all the programme's facilities. Even if you are not going to use all the functions all the time, it's good to know they are there. Secondly, one has to practice (yes, like tennis for instance) the functions that will be often used. Unless they become a natural reflex (yes, like your backhand) none of the sophisticated operations of today's software would be useful to you. Who wants to spend several minutes remembering how to operate a search, a function that is supposed to work in a split second and save you time?

Significantly, organisations are now spending more and more money on quality training for their staff. Private users are still reluctant to invest more once they have purchased the hardware and some basic software. Nothing prevents a person from buying a PC to decorate a living room or even an office. Benefiting from it is another story.

Italy conquers world with pasta

By Vera Haller
Reuter

ROME — Some 500 years after sending explorers to map the world, Italy is conquering new territory with its greatest eating tradition — pasta.

Exports of Italian pasta have increased more than threefold in the past 10 years, spurring a \$3.1 billion industry that reaches far beyond its traditional markets.

These days, Americans, French and Germans are not the only people savouring steaming bowls of Italian pasta.

The Japanese, Russians and East Europeans are also twisting their forks in plates of Italy's beloved spaghetti and tomato sauce.

"Everyone who eats a plate of pasta feels good," said industry leader Giuseppe Menconi, gleefully perusing new statistics showing Italians eating more pasta than ever before.

Of the 2.4 million tonnes of pasta produced in Italy in 1992, Italians ate 1.5 million tonnes and exported the remaining 940,000, a marked increase over previous years.

In 1982, Italy exported some 300,000 tonnes of pasta and in 1989, 544,000 tonnes.

Mr. Menconi, director of industry group Unione Industriali Pastai Italiani (UNIP), said exports were boosted in part by the fall of communism and the markets that subsequently opened in Eastern Europe.

Two years ago, Italian firms obtained a contract to sell 200,000 tonnes of pasta to the former Soviet Union. Negotiations for a new contract are continuing, Mr. Menconi said.

He said pasta has proved to be an ideal staple in former Communist states, with their struggling economies, because it is inexpensive and goes a long way to feed a family.

The Japanese, who im-

ported 45,000 tonnes of pasta last year, are also eating more but for different reasons. Mr. Menconi said the Japanese have become more open to Western-style food in recent years because they have travelled more extensively.

Pasta's popularity has also increased in traditional markets of Europe and the United States as more people adopt Italy's healthy, Mediterranean diet.

This diet includes a lot of pasta, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, and is low in meat and milk.

"Pasta is no longer seen as a fattening food," Mr. Menconi said in an interview.

"Why, a few years ago the highly-respected doctor of Luciano Pavarotti included pasta in his diet."

The Italian operatic tenor constantly battles with his weight.

Whatever its image abroad, pasta continues to be Italians' favourite food.

New UNIP figures show Italian per capita consumption rose to a new high in 1992 — 27 kg (59.4 pounds) per person — after holding steady at 25 kg (55 pounds) for several years.

Mr. Menconi said another sign of the pasta industry's strength is an unprecedented gathering, the first world congress of pasta, to be held in Rome in 1995.

The congress is being planned by industry groups from Europe and the United States and will bring together some 400 people to discuss every aspect of pasta from production to packaging.

"It is one of the most consumed products in the world. We want to measure it, value it," Mr. Menconi said.

He said participants would exchange technology and explore ways to strengthen markets in areas such as Africa and Indonesia.

"Pasta is becoming the rice of the future," he said.

Forever foreign

By E. Yaghi

Many years ago, Amanda left her native country with her four small children and immigrated here with her Jordanian husband. At first she had been very excited for the move for she felt that she was coming to her husband's people, yet upon arrival she experienced cultural shock. Suddenly she realised that all her former life had been erased forever and she was amongst a strange people in a land that she must learn to adapt to. Since her husband's family was very poor, Amanda's dwelling at first consisted of one room and no inside bathroom, kitchen or running water. Although the food was exotic, it was different and needed getting used to and Amanda had to become accustomed to everyone watching every move she made and questioning it.

"Four small children in one room, no central heating, no running water, no television, my native language from now on will be spoken to me only by a selected few, and I have no one from my own side of the family to lend me moral support when I need it. Life is proving to be somewhat harsh here," she said sadly to her husband a few nights after their arrival.

She began to carry water in buckets in order to bathe her children and everything that had been dear and precious to her became only a wishful fantasy of her unreachable past. Her husband searched for a job because the money that he brought with him would not cover his family's expenses for long. At some length, Amanda's husband found employment in one of the Gulf countries but he had to leave his wife and children behind for a few months in order to find an apartment and get settled. So, Amanda waited until her husband sent visas for her and the children. But all the while she waited in her one room dwelling, Amanda and even her children tried to adjust to a different culture and habits of a new country. At first the rebellion of impatience rumbled in her mind against these differences yet the one thing that she did feel was a love for the Jordanian people in spite of all the cultural barriers.

"Just because the Arabs are different, doesn't mean that my own culture is better, or that I myself am a better person than they are," she often stated out loud as she paced back and forth with a cranky baby in her arms. "I have given up so much, but most of what I have lost is material, not spiritual. My husband's people are my own and I want my children to grow up here for this is where we belong and this is their country too."

She lived in the Gulf countries for three consecutive years, but found that she did not have the patience to be away from Jordan for long periods of time. The last year of her sojourn away from Amman, she told her husband: "I want to go back to our home. Your parents are old and they need us and I feel that Jordan is a good and proper

place for the children to grow up in."

So she returned with her youngsters and even doubled their number and remained with her husband's family. Her children went to public schools and she always taught them that, "you are Jordanian. You do not belong to my country. This is our home where the people with the beautiful hearts live. And remember one thing, when you grow up and get married, it must not be to a foreigner like me, but to an Arab."

Amanda always felt responsible and concerned for her adopted people. She defended them whenever anyone spoke out against them, but there was always something more required of her as a good Jordanian citizen. During the Gulf War she and other foreign women who also married to Jordanians wrote letters to various countries protesting against the destruction of innocent Iraqi civilians and when she visited her native country, Amanda protested verbally to the whole issue of the war and its ethical consequences. She was outraged that such desecration could be effected with such ease of moral conscience by the coalition powers.

But in spite of her efforts, her love, her sacrifices, Amanda was still branded as "foreign" by some. Whatever she did, or whatever mistakes she made, it was always because, "well, she is a foreigner after all, what's to be expected?"

Amanda had learned that she had to be more careful than her Arab relatives or friends, for she was faced with the stigma of an alien being who never quite belonged to Arab society. But what makes a Jordanian citizen anyway? Is it just a matter of a passport or does one have to be born in a country to love it? If a person even sacrifices his life and all that he or she is for another country it would never even be enough. The idea of discrimination against non-Jordanians merely because they are foreign is in itself a characteristic foreign to the Arab nature. Whenever a person does not agree with another, it is necessary to throw back the person's origin in his face and accuse him or her of being non-Jordanian?

"Is true love supposed to be blind?" Amanda asked her friends. "If a non-Jordanian wants to help make Jordan a better country, must that person then be ostracised or criticised simply on the grounds that he or she is foreign? I am really confused, for Jordanians want to act Western and foreign, yet, they don't really accept the foreigners who sincerely love them into their hearts. If people like me speak the truth because we love Jordan and want to improve it, then our words should be acknowledged as any other Jordanian, for we want the best for our country. Criticism can most often be constructive not destructive. Excessive praise of how good and wonderful a person or country is, is beneficial to none at all."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammed A. Shuaib

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ Men travelling through dense tropical forests often collect fireflies in jars and use them as lanterns, while women in Cuba and other tropical countries pin live fireflies on their gowns or hang them around their necks on chains as decorations.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ Most cats have blue, green, yellow or orange irises in their eyes, but some cats have two different coloured eyes!

★ ★ ★ ★

★ The most talkative parrot belonging to a London family, had a vocabulary of almost 1,000 words.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ A Chinese peasant (aged 42), living in the north, has devoured 10,000 live snakes in the last twenty years when he actually started practising such a habit so as to satisfy his hunger. It has been said that the man doesn't feel quite satisfied unless he eats a snake daily. He was seen devouring a sixty centimetre-long snake during an interview with reporters.

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

— Are you coming? *Inta jay?*
— Are you eating? *Inta b'takol?*
— Are you sleeping? *Inta na'yem?*
— Are you playing? *Inta b'til'ab?*
— You're coming, aren't you? *Inta jay, sahhin willa la?*
— Yes, I'm coming. *Na'am ana jay.*
— No, I'm not coming. *La, moosh jay.*
— Where is the passport? *Fain jawaz el safar?*
— When do you go? *Inta tazhab?*
— How much is your shirt? *Bikam kanecssak?*
— Only seven Jordanian dinars. *Be-saba dananeer Urduni fakat.*
— What's that? *Eish hada?*
— That's my new car. *Hadi sayyarti jadeeda.*
— What do you want? *Eish bid'dak?/Eish ayez?*

TIME FOR FUN

The Salesman

"I despise salesmen," Matilda informed her Aunt Harriet. "Especially house-to-house salesmen."
"Why?" inquired Aunt Harriet.
"Because I hate being cheated."
"I have bought brushes and cosmetics from salesmen and I haven't had any problems," said Aunt Harriet.
"Well, I have been sold too many useless and worthless things. A vacuum cleaner that blows instead of sucking, an electric heater that shorts out the fuses, a set of stainless steel pots that rust."
"Is that why you have the sign outside, SALESMEN NOT ALLOWED?"
"Yes, that sign is the only practical thing I ever bought from a salesman!"

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

TEARS: A presage of great joy and merriment.

PIGEON: Domestic peace and comfort, success in exterior affairs. Wild pigeons signify dissolute women: Tame pigeons, honest women and wives.

LAUGHTER: Presages difficult circumstances.

HARE: (Alive) Friendship: (dead) good luck: (hare running) a lengthy journey.

FLOODS: Success after triumphing over difficulties.

BATTLE: (By girl) Will shortly fall in love: (By a soldier) Promotion.

CHILDREN: Lucky omen: Increase in wealth.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

DECATHLON

An athletic contest consisting of 10 different events. That of the Olympic Games consists of the 100-metre, 400-metre and 1,500-metre races, the 110-metre high hurdles, the javelin, discus throw, shot-put, pole vault, high jump and long jump. It has been first practised and dominated by Americans since 1912.

In men's decathlon, ten events are spread over two days. In women's heptathlon, seven events are contested in two days.

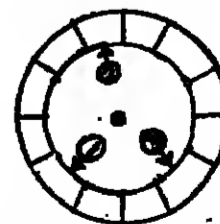
In both the decathlon and heptathlon, competitors receive points for their performances based on special tables for each of the events. The winner who builds up the biggest total gains the traditional "world's greatest athlete" title.

PUZZLES

ARROWWORDS

Each arrow points to the beginning of the word answering the appropriately numbered clue. The words extend from arrow to arrow, the final letter of one word becoming the first letter of the next.

Write your solutions clockwise into the "target", and remember, only the twelve letters in the lower diagram are to be used.



① —————> WANDERER.
② —————> GAPPED.
③ —————> NARCOTIC.

A D E G I N P R S U W Y

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 12

8:30 Too Close For Comfort
Henry's daughter Sarah wants to act in the movie (Noah's Ark) which is going to be filmed at his house.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Good Night Dear

In this episode Sam works as an undertaker, who prepares a girl for burial, and at the same time he investigates her death.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Woman With A Past

Starring: Pamela Reed and Dwight Schultz
The FBI arrests Virginia Botter and accuses her of several murders. Her husband is shocked and asks several lawyers to defend her.

Friday, Aug. 13

8:30 Head Of The Class

Teacher, Teachers

Mr. Thomas, whom Mr. Moore is replacing, returns to

school but is convinced that Mr. Moore is doing a good job and decides to retire.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Pure Gold

Tissa and her friend the private investigator try to find someone who hit a black man with his car and ran away.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — The One Game

Nicolas who owns a very big arcade for video games finds out that someone stole \$1 million from a bank.

Saturday, Aug. 14

8:30 Its A Wacky World

Perspective

Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Los Banditos (The Bandits)

Starring: Robert Conrad and Manuel Lopez
Three Americans try to help Mexican revolutionaries to retrieve hidden gold, ...but the attempt fails.

Sunday, Aug. 15

8:30 Step By Step

An old friend of Frank called Scooler visits him for a few days, and causes a lot of problems for Frank's family.

9:10 The Trials Of Life

The tactics animals use to breed and to survive are sometimes entertaining, sometimes baffling, and always fascinating.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Le Gerfaut

Monday, Aug. 16

8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 Thirtysomething

Michael and Hope go to their solicitor to write their will.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Colombo

Murder Under Glass

Columbo delves into the Food and Beverages University to solve a murder.

Tuesday, Aug. 17

8:30 People Next Door

Town Without Pity

The laughs flow in this appealing animated/live-action sitcom about an off-centre cartoonist with a very vivid imagination.

9:00 Faces And Places

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Angels With Dirty Faces

Starring: James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and Humphry Bogart.

Wednesday, Aug. 18

8:30 Night Court

Could This Be Magic

Judge Stone meets an old magician whom he admired as a kid.

9:10 Documentary — The Earth Day Special

A special programme about how to save our planet by cleaning the environment.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Family Pictures

The 'happiness pill' — the invention of neuroleptics

By Jean Chabrier

Forty years ago, French researchers invented what are called neuroleptics. They meant tremendous progress in our knowledge of mental illness and resulted in new therapies, but misuse of them has led to a lot of controversy.

PARIS — In 1952, P. Charpentier, a researcher at Rhône-Poulenc, synthesised a molecule which was studied, from a pharmacological point of view, by Simone Courvoisier. It was considered as a "neuro-vegetative stabiliser" and it appeared to have applications in the area of anaesthesiology. For this reason, in December 1952, it was given to H. Laborit, a surgeon in the French Navy. He had noticed that it could be of interest to badly wounded or sick people in whom it reduced the intensity of their defence reactions which exhausted their organisms, by a method called "artificial hibernation" similar to the natural hibernation of animals in which all the

metabolic functions operate at a slow rate.

The product proved to be most satisfactory both as an anaesthetic and for inducing hibernation. But, in addition to this, Laborit noticed a very special psychic state on awakening, a kind of indifference which could be interesting in psychiatry.

Even if the reader is very well informed, he could hardly imagine that this medical treatment only goes back forty years, particularly in psychiatry. Apart from huge doses of sleeping-pills and electric shock therapy, there was no other treatment for mental illness.

Professors J. Delay and P. Deniker and their teams started experimenting with

chlorpromazine and important conclusions were reached. In an illness such as schizophrenia, terrible as it is and for which there was, until then, no treatment, quite considerable improvement was noted very quickly. It was a veritable revolution. At last, there was a drug able to act against hallucinations, agitation, anxiety, delirium, etc., without affecting vigilance.

The chemistry of the brain

Researchers all over the world plunged into this pharmacological breakthrough. As early as 1954, doctors started targeting products likely to have an effect on the dopamine and serotonin system.

At the same time, it was the beginning of the invention of the "chemistry" of the brain. It was noted that all the intercommunication between the neurons (which condition affectivity and intelligence and cause a state of agitation or tranquillity, tolerance or hatred, etc.) are dependent on a certain number

of chemical substances called neurotransmitters or neuromediators. It should be pointed out that the problem turned out to be infinitely more complicated than appeared and that we are far from the smug optimism which prevailed in the 60s.

Certain neurotransmitters, for instance, control groups of several hundred neurons, while others only affect tiny groups of no more than a dozen neurons. There is also synergic or antagonistic interaction, with annihilation or potentialisation, etc..

Nevertheless, tremendous progress has been made and there are now just over thirty neuroleptics, on the market, with more or less specific uses. Seven of them were discovered between 1954 and 62; 23 between 1962 and 80; and five since then. At the same time, benzodiazepines, which are the leaders in a whole series of tranquillisers, called "happiness pills", appeared and were tremendously successful in an anxious and stressful world.

This is where the polemic arises.

The overconsumption of tranquillisers is, at the same time, a social, economic and cultural problem. Our contemporaries have become used to seeking comfort when they do not want to be upset by the unavoidable irritations of life. Many of them are fed up with their working conditions (transport-work-sleep, etc.).

A civilisation of leisure and consumption is being extolled and it is hard to wake up to reality. The red tape of administration as well as the continuous drumming of the media should not be forgotten. How could a doctor resist the cry for help of somebody having a nervous breakdown? It must also be admitted that a patient (whoever he is) will tend to overestimate his ailment if he feels anxious at the idea of having a relapse or a worsening in his condition.

Neuroleptics have been treacherous for tying their psychiatric patients in a chemical "straightjacket". Some people have even gone so far as to speak of the "rape of the human person". The



Happiness pills are extremely fashionable in a world full of anxiety

answer to this false controversy comes from the patients themselves. Ask them if they prefer to be imprisoned in a real straightjacket

or to take medicine. Thanks to neuroleptics, which were discovered 40 years ago, life has once more taken on a meaning for many

psychiatric patients who, in the past, would have been interned. This anniversary was worth pointing out — L'Actualité En France.

Gene therapy moves towards commercial reality

By Cynthia Johnson
Reuter

LONDON — Gene therapy is beginning to move out of the laboratory and may become a commercial reality in as little as five years, industry analysts say.

First seen as a means of remedying the 4,000 or so inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis that are caused by a single gene fault, gene therapy is now being explored in the fight against such things as cancer, AIDS and cardiovascular disease.

Dozens of human trials for gene therapy are under way or scheduled throughout the world. In the last four years

more than 25 gene therapy trials have started on cancer patients alone.

The profound role of genes in human development — and the ethical issues raised for research — was highlighted recently by a U.S. study suggesting a genetic basis for homosexuality.

"There are very few weeks that go past without some interesting new gene being identified," said Dr. Tony Vickers, until recently head of Britain's work on the Human Genome Project, the international effort to produce a detailed map of genetic "blueprint" of the body.

"The big clinical payoff will come when you've got a

handle on diseases with a complex genetic component like some cardiovascular disease and cancers," he said.

"This is because once you can deal with the top 10 inherited single gene diseases you are probably at the point of diminishing returns on those, as most are relatively rare."

In gene therapy, faulty or missing genes are replaced, preventing them from "switching on" a disease. This is done by changing the DNA structure of cells so that they produce therapeutic proteins in the body. DNA is the substance of which genes are made and transmits hereditary patterns.

Leading commercial firms in the gene therapy field include Genetic Therapy of Gaithersburg, Maryland and Genzyme in Boston, Massachusetts.

These firms, along with independent researchers, are not only investigating the most promising options for gene-related treatment but also mechanisms for delivering those therapies.

Modified viruses are the most commonly used delivery systems — or vectors — used to carry gene therapies to target cells.

Retroviruses — the family of viruses that includes HIV, the cause of AIDS — have been popular because much

is known about their structure and function. These are seen as particularly useful in diseases like cancer caused by dividing cells.

Adenoviruses — the family of viruses that causes colds — are also showing promise because of the ease with which they can be produced in sufficient concentrations for efficient transfer to the body.

One adenovirus approach being tried in cystic fibrosis (CF) trials is the use of an

inhaler — like those for asthma treatment — to propel the virus carrying a normal version of the gene responsible for CF into a patient's respiratory tract.

But viral gene therapy carriers may in some cases cause an inflammatory immune response, especially in repeated doses.

Another delivery system avoiding this risk and now being investigated with some

success is the use of microscopic fat globules called Liposomes.

Last month, University of California researchers in San Francisco said their trials with Liposomes in mice raised hopes of delivering helpful genes into virtually any tissue.

This included bone marrow cells and disease fighting T lymphocytes, which in current gene therapy trials must

be removed from the body and returned after modification.

The California research highlights an ongoing debate about whether gene therapy should be carried out within the body or whether the relevant cells should be removed, treated and then reintroduced. Some researchers believe it is much riskier to try to monitor the effects of treatment in the body.

Pain relief for preemies reduces stress hormones

LONDON (AP) — Despite previous concerns about giving pain-killers to newborns, a new study suggests that morphine safely relieves discomfort caused by drawing blood and inserting breathing tubes in premature babies.

"There is quite a lot of controversy about the potential harmful effects of these drugs and that is why they are not being used widely. Our findings would support their use," said Dr. Michael Quinn, one of the investigators and a pediatrician at Exeter University.

The findings appeared in the *Lancet*, a medical journal.

Previously, American researchers showed that morphine reduced stress hormones in full-term babies undergoing heart surgery. The British study goes a step further by giving the pain-killer continuously to premature babies requiring ventilating machines to breathe.

"This is an important study and shows that newborns undergoing intensive care should have proper analgesia," or pain relief, said Dr. Charles Berde, director of the pain treatment service at the Children's Hospital in Boston.

Though life-saving treatment for preemies has improved considerably in the past decade, most attention focused on treating their ailments. A growing group of neonatal specialists are now paying attention to the babies' symptoms, much the way doctors routinely monitor pain in children and adults undergoing surgery.

Studying pain in babies is tricky, though, because newborns may not express pain by crying or squirming, as older babies do.

In this study, British researchers measured adrenaline, a stress hormone that tends to increase in response to painful stimuli.

However, the surge in stress hormones — a biological response — "may or may not be an index of pain," said Dr. Berde.

"Sometimes the increases are associated with pain but there are other circumstances when stress hormones appear to be unrelated to the experience of pain," said Dr. Berde.

Nevertheless, Dr. Berde said it is important to treat the stress response because the rise in hormones may be linked to depletion of energy reserves, breakdown of protein stores, and possibly impaired healing after surgery.

Investigators gave 21 premature babies morphine and 20 received a placebo. All the babies, born between Oct. 1991 and June 1992, had less than 34 weeks of gestation and suffered from respiratory distress syndrome, or fragile lungs.

Morphine was continued until the baby was weaned

from the breathing machine. After 24 hours, adrenaline levels dropped about 25 per cent among morphine babies and increased 9 per cent in the placebo group.

There were no differences in blood pressure or heart rate among babies in each group.

Six babies in each group suffered from bleeding in the heart and one baby in each group suffered from air in the lungs, effects not related to treatment.

In a commentary in the *Lancet*, Dr. Andrew Wolan, an anaesthesiologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow, wrote that continuous infusion of morphine can lead to tolerance. He suggested using the drug only at times of major stress.

Dr. Quinn said long-term trials are necessary to ensure that morphine given to newborns does not cause later development damage.

Quinine linked to kidney problems, warnings urged

By Randall Mikkelsen
Reuter

PHILADELPHIA — It's enough to take the fizz out of summer: Consumption of quinine, the key ingredient in tonic water, has been linked in rare cases to kidney failure and blood-sugar deficiencies, according to reports in a U.S. medical journal.

An article in *Annals of Internal Medicine* urged that warning labels be placed on all products containing quinine.

"Because of the serious reactions noticed here and in previous reports, consideration should be given to making quinine available by prescription only," the article said.

"At minimum, warnings of quinine's potential harmful effects should be printed on all over-the-counter preparations and on bottles of tonic water," it said.

Quinine is a salt obtained from Cinchona bark. It is used in tablet form to treat malaria and muscle cramps, and is also used to flavour tonic water — the carbonated mixer, used in gin-and-tonic cocktails that are most popular in warm weather.

The amount of quinine in one tablet is well over 10 times the amount present in an entire bottle of the mixer. The article did not specify what size bottle was used as a reference.

In two cases described by a team led by Dr. Robert Maguire of the University of Illinois Internal Medicine Department, female patients developed kidney failure after apparently consuming quinine.

One patient had taken quinine tablets, but it was unclear how the other had ingested the substance which was found in her urine and blood.

Another report by doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota said a male patient taking quinine tablets to relieve leg cramps had developed low blood-sugar content, or hypoglycemia.

His blood sugar returned to normal after the quinine treatments were stopped in a hospital test.

Although quinine has been known to cause hypoglycemia in persons with malaria, the article concluded that high doses of quinine also may cause hypoglycemia in healthy people.

An editorial in the same

issue of *Annals* said the more severe effects of quinine ingestion on the kidneys appeared to be associated with the substance in its tablet form.

Quinine tablets usually contain about 250 milligrams of the substance, while tonic water has about 15 milligrams to the bottle, it said.

The editorial said the triggering mechanism behind the cases of kidney failure — the destruction of elements in the blood by antibodies — occurs only in a small percentage of people taking quinine.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CRUZZWORDS
By Raymond Hamel

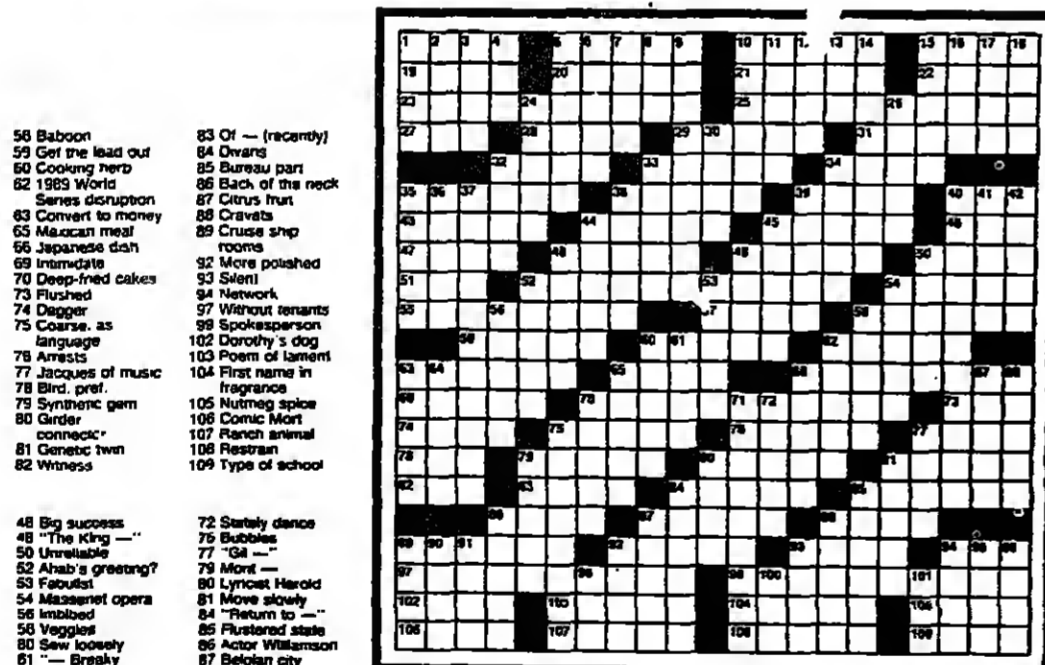
- ACROSS
- 1 Yarn revelations
 - 5 La — Milan
 - 10 Mr. Chips
 - 15 Daring business operation
 - 19 Beware the — of March
 - 20 South India language
 - 21 Notched irregularly
 - 22 Vortex
 - 23 Carved price
 - 24 Redoubt
 - 25 Have a meal
 - 26 Extremely
 - 29 — in St. Louis
 - 31 Do office work
 - 32 Marble
 - 34 Iranian money

- DOWN
- 1 Appreciate
 - 2 Brandish
 - 3 Gingham
 - 4 Recipe abbr.
 - 5 Very hard
 - 6 Framework
 - 7 Formosa Strait island
 - 8 Mass West role
 - 9 Figurative
 - 10 Reduces in rank
 - 11 Rapid westward
 - 12 Water spout
 - 13 Intermittent
 - 14 Computer
 - 15 Boat back
 - 16 Mine entrance
 - 17 Footnote word
 - 18 Unit of force
 - 24 Lake the walls of

Diagramless 10 x 10, By James Barrick

- ACROSS
- 1 Innocent one
 - 5 Homeric epic
 - 7 May or Labor end
 - 10 Part
 - 12 Actor Vigoda
 - 13 Shelter
 - 14 — King Cole
 - 15 Very tough
 - 23 Golf ball stand
 - 24 Sward
 - 25 Dawn goddess

- DOWN
- 1 Amount offered
 - 2 Neighbor of Tenn.
 - 3 Redoubt
 - 4 Bird of prey
 - 5 Poor grades
 - 6 Die down
 - 7 Abominable
 - 8 Snowman
 - 9 South flag
 - 10 — girl
 - 11 Al hand



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Swimmer scores win in open meet at summer camp under undue pressure.
2. Steadfast sunflower follows her sun through the hours, from mellow rise to flaming end.
3. Former farmer forms firm frame for fresh fish booth from beautiful lumber.
4. Do lovers of inequality rule over dens of iniquity?

CRYPTOCGRAMS

1. FLJSEV OXK INXORAV BNM L TVEOLA
AOCCAV ZNFFL CN ILAILRAJ ZKLETV CEV
RLXOZ ZNMVXV NB NWM KOICNMJ.

—By Gordon Miller

2. QDZAWEKAROL PALDOLLARKL
DRKDXZKAH WRKXJZF WQJXZL
DQOLX WQKF HRRP WQZZAQHXL JR KXP.

—By Eugene T. Malenka

3. FUNGAMEUF QH EMUGL JKJOUJOU.
ZGJOECU JKJXAUJLXGXJ QXPU OCU
JXCOH QKHO EK QGFU ZGEM MGC X
ZMGNU.

—By Rita Salvato

4. MAY IMBAFF MELON YUBAREF FELON FE
RULON.

—By Ed Huddleston



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Diary

(Continued from Weekender)

نعت رعية معالي وزير الثقافة

الدكتور محمود السمره

يخضع معرض الفنانين الذين تم اختيارهم للمشاركة في المعرض الوطني للفنون التشكيلية في المركز الثقافي الملكي الساعة السابعة مساءً يوم الخميس 11/8/93 والدعوة عامة

UNDER THE EXCUSEY

D. MUHAMMAD AL-SAMRAT

Will Pleasure

The Royal Culture Centre invites you to attend The Opening of plastic Arts

Mr. Muhammad Al-Samrat

Mr. Al-Samrat at 11:00 PM

All Invited

A DISPLAY OF SOMETHING: Two artists this week delivered an invitation to their exhibition to the offices of the Jordan Times. While introducing himself to mostly art-lovers milling around the place, one of the artists did not fail to mention that he had worked as an art critic for the Baghdad Observer, which is Iraq's only English-language daily, "for many years." On the invitation, we particularly liked how the first name of our minister of culture (under whose patronage the exhibition is to be held) was spelled. "His excellency" "Mahmoud..." read exactly like this: "The excelsy" "Mmmud." The smaller p... below the name was even more telling. While we must admit that we ourselves make spelling and typesetting mistakes all the time in this newspaper, we have to say that happens only once, twice or ten times in writing millions of characters every day. Since there were two miles of errors in a two-centimetre space on that card, however, we wonder how the invitation card escaped the scrutiny of — well, the minister of culture himself and his staff at the esteemed ministry. Just to add a footnote to this story, the prime minister last week paid a surprise visit to the ministry, only to find that neither the minister nor his director general were on hand to greet him. They evidently did not know he was coming. Dr. Majali, being the gentleman that he indeed is, tried again later on, but without taking any chances. His office made sure this time to inform the minister of the impending visit.

* * *

'SORE' EMPLOYEES AND SERVICE CHARGE: The employees of the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel are not exactly happy with the "whimsical" attitude of their financial policy-makers. They have even threatened to strike in protest against what they see as a deliberate attempt by the management to deprive them of their rights in sharing some huge profits made by the hotel. The story, as was told to the Diary, goes something like this. The hotel is required to distribute to employees the returns of a 10 per cent service charge it never fails to calculate on top of every bill it charges guests. In the first stage of this "mess," only 5 per cent of the total was paid to the employees, on equal basis. Then after the employees' association intervened to get the full amount, an agreement was reached to distribute what is worth 7.5 per cent. That agreement carried weight for only a short period of time, after which employees noticed their returns from the service charge was decreasing. Upon a new investigation, it was found that the management had decided that the employees were getting too much money, so it started deducting the salaries of its per diem employees and other overtime allowances from the total, and distribute the remainder. The shock from the discovery almost forced a showdown. The association considered going on strike to protest the management's reneging on the agreement, only to be told (in no uncertain terms) that they would be fired if they carried out the threat. With the unemployment rate being what it is in the country, the employees naturally backed off. Meanwhile, the fate of the service charge continues to hang in the balance.

Nermeen Murad

The fight to recover from Agent Orange

By Roger Cans

FROM 1961 to 1970 the American air force sprayed thousands of tonnes of defoliant on Vietnam in an attempt to flush the Vietcong out of their forest retreats. It is estimated that a total of 72,000 tonnes of chemicals were systematically dropped on about 2 million hectares of terrain south of the 17th parallel, including 45,000 tonnes of the notorious Agent Orange, which contains such deadly chemicals as 2,4,5-T and dioxin.

The forest vegetation did not gradually grow back after the end of the war in 1975, as it had on the French battlefields after 1918. This was partly because the Americans went to the trouble, after destroying the trees with chemicals, to drop the seed of special grasses that would prevent trees growing again. Vast areas of forest were thus turned into grassy savannah.

The Vietnamese government was keen to reconstitute a productive forest. But there seemed to be no solution in a tropical climate that comprises dry seasons of up to six months. Without forest cover, the 1,500-3,000mm of annual rainfall simply evaporated.

What was needed was an exotic tree variety capable of resisting fire and drought. The Vietnamese foresters selected one of ten acacias that grow in the Australian outback, *Acacia auriculiformis*. This fast-growing and particularly hardy tree has the added advantage of making good firewood and being suitable for being turned into wood pulp.

By planting 5,000 acacias per hectare, the foresters obtained, after three or four years, a forest cover that completely eliminated the sun-loving grasses. They were then able to implement a second planting programme on the strips they had left open between the acacias. Saplings of various native timber-producing species belonging to the important family of Dipterocarpaceae were reintroduced in this way.

This technique was applied to several tens of thousands of hectares in Vietnam. But funds were inadequate to reforest the million-plus hectares that needed such treatment. In some places there was not enough money to plant the *Dipterocarpaceae* after the acacias, which meant the acacias had to be felled after ten years and exported as wood pulp. The forest did not grow back after that.

Another technique which has been successfully tried is agroforestry. Farmers were given saplings of *Dipterocarpaceae* around which they were asked to sow cassava. Weeded at the same time as the cassava and protected by its shade, the trees grew vigorously, eventually producing trunks 15 metres tall that formed the basis of a forest. "We now know how to go about it," says Professor Thai Van Trung, head of the Ecology Centre in Ho Chi Minh City. "But we're short of money, and the Americans refuse to pay for the damage they caused" — *Le Monde*

Lebanon seeks Europe's help

By Hélène Bourdon

NEW YORK — If the recent Israeli attack against Iranian-backed Hizbollah and other guerrillas in southern Lebanon prompted little sympathy to start with, the humanitarian crisis left in its wake leaves many to wonder at the punishment meted out to this small nation of 2.7 million people.

To moderate Palestinians, it was a sign that there best recourse to get the Mideast peace process back on track may now be Europe, as they see the new Clinton administration as pro-Israel.

"It's beyond description what the Israelis have done," commented Dr. Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations. It is estimated that about 23,000 shells fell on mostly civilian targets, he explained in a recent interview, with missiles reaching throughout the country — hitting the north and areas 15 kilometres from Beirut, and turning into a moonscape a broad swath of the south.

With close to half a million people crowding into the capital to seek shelter, the Lebanese government which has strained its limited resources for the past two years to rebuild the country after almost 17 years of civil strife finds it cannot cope alone. According to Dr. Makkawi, Arab League members meeting in Damascus after the ceasefire promised to allocate \$500 million to rebuild southern Lebanon. Aid is also arriving from western nations and humanitarian organisations.

Fifty per cent of the city of Nabatieh which had a population of 60,000 has been razed, the ambassador said, and about 50 villages were totally destroyed. Warned of the artillery onslaught, many villagers had fled when the blow came, yet 130 people were reported killed before survivors started to excavate through the rubble; the wounded numbered about 400, Dr. Makkawi said. The first damage estimate was pegged at \$800 million but was likely to go much higher, he added.

Asked whether the attack could preface some concessions on the part of the Israelis in the ongoing peace talks, he stated: "There is no excuse for any government in the world to destroy another country; it's unacceptable."

"Unless we tackle the root of the problem, which is the occupation of south Lebanon by Israel

(the so-called security zone), we are bound to have more troubles. The only way out of this whole mess is for Israel to leave Lebanon for good and allow the Lebanese army to deploy and take control of the south."

The point was also emphasised by the head of the Palestine Affairs Centre in Washington, D.C., Amnes Bourhouth. If there is a positive side to this, he said, it is that it underlines the danger of such violence happening on a regular basis, unless there is a peace agreement and the Israelis pull out of the security zone. "Security does not come from having a five or 10-mile-wide border (buffer) zone. There is security when there is peace."

"It was so arrogant to hear (Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin say that he was going to make

southern Lebanon 'unlivable.' It was an attack against civilians," he added.

Both he and Dr. Makkawi pointed out that the seven Israeli soldiers killed by guerrillas in the last month and whose deaths were used as justification for the massive bombing had been killed in the security zone, not in Israel. The retaliation was totally out of proportion, Mr. Bourhouth said, "as if Jewish blood is 50 times more expensive than any other blood."

Singling out Hizbollah as the enemy enabled Israel to proceed at first with the silent blessing of neighbouring countries worried about this extremist, Iran-backed group also called Party of God which has branches in many parts of the Arab World.

Hizbollah is represented in the Lebanese parliament and its influence seems to be growing

proportionately to the peace talks' failure to bring tangible results. The group probably has only about 1,500 people in southern Lebanon, Ambassador Makkawi said. "The truth is that the whole Lebanese population is against the occupation (of the security zone). Hizbollah guerrillas are Lebanese resisting against the occupation."

With Hizbollah in south Lebanon are extremist Palestinian groups who reject all negotiations with Israel and object to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) endorsement of the talks. "We have no leverage over Hizbollah" or the other guerrilla groups, Mr. Bourhouth noted. "Nobody can tell the Lebanese not to resist occupation. Even the Lebanese prime minister could not... As for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat," he said, "he cannot even ask the people in the West Bank and Gaza to stop the intifada. It would be treason. But if the peace process really went through and the Israelis started withdrawing, Arafat would probably convince every-

body, Hizbollah and others, saying 'things are going the right way; hold your guns, hold your horses and let us see what is happening'."

"The Arab World is genuinely interested in a just and lasting peace based on justice," said Ambassador Makkawi, noting that the Mideast peace negotiations might start showing some results if the PLO became a *bona fide* party to the talks. Until now, Israel has barred the PLO leadership — Palestine's government in exile — from attending the peace sessions.

Israel still refuses to recognise that the Lebanese territory (in the security zone) is occupied territory, and the same goes for the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. Mr. Bourhouth said. "Meanwhile they are annexing a number of villages into Jerusalem (which Israel has said it will never give up): 25 per cent of the West Bank is now being called 'Jerusalem'." For 20 months now, nothing has moved in the peace negotiations, he said. "I would

not be surprised if even Palestinians who were involved in the negotiations now turned to other methods... We are going to have some sort of dialogue to reassess where the peace process is heading."

Mr. Bourhouth, who has a background in economics and business management with practical experience acquired in America, says he is looking to Europe to add substance to the peace process. "Europe has more interest in the Middle East than any other country in the world. I have talked to the French, the British, the Belgians; I tell them that, unless Europe stands up for what it believes in, and say this is the way peace should be implemented... there may be violence from all sides."

He notes that since the last American elections, he gets "better response for the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese cause in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) than in the U.S. Congress or the White House."

"If Europe came to an understanding on the Middle East... he muses — World News Link.



Although the recent ceasefire stipulates that Lebanon will disarm guerrillas like these experts warn that there, will be no security without a peace agreement (WNL photo)



After struggling for two years to recover from 14 years of civil war, Lebanon must cope with a new tragedy (WNL photo)

Seal hunt under way on Skeleton Coast

By John Grobler

Reuter

CAPE CROSS, Namibia (R) — Albert Brink curses softly under his breath as he reloads his silenced hunting rifle, without taking his eyes from those of the seal pup a few metres away.

He has just missed his shot. "It moved," he says apologetically to Thomas Amunye, who hands him a fresh magazine loaded with soft-nosed small calibre bullets.

The ammunition is designed to kill but not to spoil the pelts that will end up adorning fashionable Europeans despite the vociferous campaigns of animal rights groups outraged at the slaughter. "We should have brought the pick-axe handles along," he muses.

Mr. Brink, owner of sea lion products at Skeleton Coast Park in Cape Cross, outlines the problems of realising a clean kill. "Their brains are too small, and they move their heads constantly when they are awake. The only way you can be sure that you are not going to miss is with a pick-handle."

The next shot is true, smacking into a spot close to the ears of the mewling pup, the first of the 48,000 to be culled this year under Namibia's controversial "seal harvesting" programme.

This is the killing season at Cape Cross, one of only two areas on the Namibian coast where an estimated 700,000 seals come onto the mainland to rest and breed. It is also the season when the pups are weaned, before the next mating season starts at the end of the year.

After half an hour, the collecting team moves in and recovers the first 48 carcasses of the daily quota of 330 pups.

No seal pups were shot this morning — Mr. Brink has a contract for 1,200 bulls, whose dried genitalia are in great demand in the Far East.

The 29 workers he employs during the August-November culling season move among the herd without any discomfort from the overwhelming stench of urine.

The seals move away as they approach, except for one young

cow. Closer inspection shows she has been wounded and Mr. Brink dispatches the animal with a single shot.

"It looked sick to me," he says. Animal rights groups have widely criticised the cull and the Namibian Fisheries Ministry normally refuses requests from journalists to monitor it.

Permanent Secretary at the ministry Reimo Kankondi says the issue has been sensationalised. "The Namibian government must utilise all natural resources on a sustainable basis. We will not allow the media to misuse this to sabotage our economic endeavours."

The rules set by the Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism are draconian. For anyone to film or photograph the cull, permission has to be given by three directorates and any script submitted for vetting to the Ministry of Broadcasting and Information.

We are here without permission. Mr. Brink says that while he believes animal rights groups have done good work in the past, he has to protect his own livelihood and that of his workers.

"What do I tell my workers when this gets stopped by the animal activists?" he asks.

Seasonal work at the factory pays up to 300 rand (\$100) a month, with supplies and seal meat given as added incentives. The closest shops are at Healds Bay, about 70 kilometres away, from where all water has to be trucked to Cape Cross.

At the factory, workers start offloading the carcasses.

Male seals are set on one side and Mr. Amunye carefully cuts out the complete male genitalia which are carefully cleaned and dried before being exported to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

Mr. Brink declines to say how much he gets for the genitals or for the pelts, which have all been sold in advance this year.

"Germany, France and Italy buy the pelts in the 'wet blue' (raw but salted) form and then process them into fashion. There is a growing demand," he says.

Mr. Brink says the rest of the carcasses are processed into bone meal.



There is a lot more to Rayas than great food

No need to tell you about Rayas full menu: From Great Burgers and Reishbeef, to delicious Fish Fillet, Tender Chicken Nuggets and the real Mexican Tacos and Nachos.

What we would like to tell you is how we are taking our social responsibilities very seriously:



We will use Environment Friendly products in our outlets such as Recycled boxes and paper products, whenever possible.



It is our Responsibility to keep our country clean. As of September, a team of Rayas staff and friends will organize cleaning Drives in several areas of the kingdom.

Rayas also commits in organizing regular community and charity activities. The first drive will take place from Aug12 to Aug14: 15% of the proceeds during these days will be donated to the charity chosen by our customers.

Join us and help make this donation a significant one.

Rayas

A Small Restaurant
A Grand Mission

Abdoun - Opposite Mohaseb Shopping Center Tel. 812955

OAPEC: Japan relies more on Arab Gulf oil than EC

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan is relying more on Arab oil while the European Community (EC) is importing more crude from other sources, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said in a report issued Tuesday.

Arab oil exports to Japan have steadily risen in recent years, a fact which regional economists attributed to the failure of other suppliers to match the growth in Japanese crude oil requirements.

Japan's oil imports from the Arab World, notably the Gulf, rose to 2.88 million barrels per day (b/d) in 1992 from 2.66 million in 1991 and 2.41 million in 1990, OAPEC said.

The 1992 figure accounted for 66.6 per cent of Japan's total oil imports compared with 63.9 per cent in 1991 and 63.6 per cent in 1990. The level was around 50 per cent in the mid-1980s, according to independent estimates.

Japan tried to reduce reliance on Gulf oil during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war but failed to do so because of a steady decline from other sources just as more discoveries were being made in the Gulf.

The additional discoveries pushed the crude reserves of Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) States — groupings Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — to nearly 470 billion barrels in 1992 from less than 300 billion in the early 1980s.

Most of the discoveries were in Saudi Arabia, which revised upwards its reserves to 260 billion barrels from 170 billion barrels and, the UAE which boosted them to 98 billion from 38 billion barrels.

A breakdown by the Cairo-based OAPEC showed the UAE remained the top crude supplier to Japan, exporting 1.068 million b/d, followed by Saudi Arabia, with exports of 1.049 million b/d and Oman with 278,000 b/d.

Kuwait supplied 237,000 b/d in 1992 after a record low of 58,000 b/d in 1991 due to the Gulf war damage to its oil industry.

Iraq, which exported 144,000 b/d to Japan in 1990, supplied almost nothing in the following years because of United Nations sanctions imposed after the Gulf war.

"Indications show that Japan's reliance on Arab oil will exceed 70 per cent by the year 2000," Henry Azzam, chief economist at

the Saudi National Commercial Bank, said in a recent study. "This has prompted it to seek stable and long-term crude supplies from the region."

The EC imported more crude from the region but the share of Arab supplies in its total figure of crude imports has declined in favour of other sources.

OAPEC's report showed EC oil imports from the Arab region slightly increased to 4.2 million b/d in 1992 from 4.1 million in 1991. They stood at 4.13 million b/d in 1990 and 4.10 million in 1989.

"The share of Arab oil supplies to the EC has declined to 39 per cent from 41 per cent, although they increased in quantity," the report said.

Despite the large oil import bill, the EC enjoyed a record trade surplus with the GCC in 1992, at \$7 billion. In contrast, Japan suffered a \$9 billion trade deficit with the GCC in 1992.

The report covered supplies from OAPEC members Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, Egypt and Syria, as well as independent producers Oman and Yemen.

Dollar falls to new low against yen

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell to another record low against the Japanese yen Wednesday as investors bought yen to escape uncertainty over European currencies' stability. Tokyo share prices gained for the third consecutive day.

The dollar plunged at one point to 103.65 yen, below its previous modern low of 103.85 yen set in New York last Thursday.

Its close of 103.77 yen was down 0.70 yen from Tuesday's close and its lowest finish in Tokyo since modern exchange rates were set in the late 1940s. The previous record low close in Tokyo was 104.35 yen on Aug. 3 and again on Aug. 6.

The dollar has now fallen 21.21 yen, or 17.0 per cent, from its close of 124.98 yen on Feb. 2. Much of the decline resulted from

the market's feeling that the United States wanted a higher yen to help reduce its deficit in trade with Japan. A stronger yen makes Japanese goods more expensive abroad and foreign products cheaper in Japan.

After finishing at 104.70 yen in New York Tuesday, the dollar opened in Tokyo Wednesday at 104.68 yen and ranged between 103.65 yen and 104.70 yen.

Spot trading totalled \$7.772 billion, up from Tuesday's \$5.093 billion.

Investors sold German marks and other European currencies for yen to escape the uncertainty surrounding the European money market, said Tamaji Ikehata, a senior analyst with Tokai Bank.

"That benefited the relatively stable yen, pushing its value up against the U.S. currency," he said.

"Despite the central bank's apparent intervention to support the dollar, dollar sales for yen by Japanese exporters kept pushing the yen upward," Mr. Ikehata said.

The bank of Japan does not comment on its exchange market activities.

The move out of most European currencies amid recurring tensions in Europe's exchange rate system started in New York overnight after the German central bank, the Bundesbank, maintained its lending rate for securities repurchase agreements at a fixed 6.80 per cent.

Investors had expected a reduction in the repurchase rate, used by the Bundesbank to influence other rates. High interest rates tend to increase the value of a currency because investments denominated in that currency

earn more.

European Community leaders agreed last week to relax the shaky European exchange rate mechanism after several currencies came under attack by speculators.

In New York, however, the dollar had climbed Tuesday against most major currencies as investors bought German marks and sold weaker European currencies.

On the stock market, the 225-issue Nikkei stock average closed at 20,732.57, up 238.82 points, or 1.17 per cent. On Tuesday, it had posted an insignificant gain of 0.70 points to 20,493.75.

Since the new coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa was formed Monday, the benchmark Nikkei index now has gained 374.63 points, or 1.84 per cent.

India's housing boom leaves the poor in the cold

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's hopes of enlisting the private sector to build housing for its homeless millions have been dashed as builders ignore low-income families to build homes for the burgeoning middle class.

Numbering some 150 million, India's middle class comprises one-fifth of the population but it accounts for up to 90 per cent of the business of the housing industry, which finds no profit in building shelter for the poor.

Millions of people live on pavements or in ramshackle huts without running water or electricity in Bombay, Calcutta and other cities and industry experts say their desire for a decent, affordable home is a pipe dream.

Land and rental prices have soared in most Indian cities over the past few years under demand from the newly affluent middle class.

But government's low-cost housing schemes and a construction boom have failed to benefit low-income families, housing ministry officials said.

Middle class families earning up to \$6,000 rupees (\$1,000 a month) are paying as much as 10,000 rupees (\$300) a month to rent or buy an apartment in the city.

A 500-square-foot (45-square-metre) privately-built apartment in New Delhi costs up to \$25,000. A similar flat would sell for up to \$50,000 in Bombay and around \$22,000 in Madras.

"It is impossible for people earning 1,000 rupees (\$33) or even 4,000 rupees (\$132) a month to obtain a loan to buy a house," said H.K. Kapoor of the Life Insurance Corp. Housing Finance Ltd.

"Most people in the lower income bracket just cannot afford a loan — or a house," he added, pointing to a pile of rejected loan applications.

"The magnitude of the problem is awesome," said P.N. Asari, deputy chief of the National Building Organisation (NBO), which estimates that nearly \$20 billion would be needed to meet the need for low-cost housing.

The state-funded NBO estimates that around 30 million families live on the streets in India or in squalid conditions which cannot be considered adequate shelter.

It estimates that another 10 million will join the ranks of the homeless by the year 2,000, but plans to conduct a survey of the housing crisis had to be abandoned due to budget cuts.

Turkish workers threaten strike

ANKARA (R) — The leader of 400,000 Turkish public sector workers said Tuesday they would strike this month if the government did not meet their demand for a 61 per cent pay rise.

But Prime Minister Tansu Ciller bit back with a televised nationwide appeal to the public to back wage restraint.

"Should we give our workers higher wage increases or should we invest more for everyone's welfare?" Mrs. Ciller thundered in an address broadcast on state and private television channels.

She said excessive wage increases would boost inflation, which hit a 15-month high of 73.1 per cent in the year to July.

Earlier, Payram Meral, chairman of Turkey's biggest union confederation Turk-Is, said 400,000 state sector workers would go on strike on Aug. 25 unless the government met its demands.

He told Reuters the government had offered only 55 per cent, but wanted more talks to try to avert a strike.

"We have done everything we could. You see our demand is well below the annual rate of inflation," Mr. Meral said.

Mrs. Ciller said the state was already giving workers a quarter of its annual income of 400 trillion lira (\$34 billion), of which 35 per cent went to 1.5 million civil servants.

An average state worker earns a gross monthly salary of about six million lira (\$517).

Lloyd's survives attack by rebel investors

LONDON (AP) — Lloyd's of London Tuesday survived an attack by rebel investors who could have derailed the troubled insurance market's survival plan.

Thousands of the once-wealthy investors, known as "names," have lost their entire personal fortunes, which they put on the line to back insurance policies at Lloyd's, famous for covering everything from rock stars to oil tankers.

Thousands of these disgruntled names had hoped to make Lloyd's liable for their damages. But some 15,000 voting members of Lloyd's turned down that proposal by a 2-1 margin, meaning investors can only take legal action against individuals who they believe may have cheated them.

The rebel investors also failed by a similar margin to gain approval of a plan that would allow Lloyd's to bring in fresh cash from corporate investors only if money-losing names are compensated for recent losses.

A third item on the ballot at Lloyd's gave the market overwhelming approval for its plan to bring in outside cash from corporations, who will be able to decide in advance how much money they will risk losing.

This marks a dramatic departure from three centuries of tradition at Lloyd's, which in the past required wealthy investors to put their entire personal fortunes on the line to back the market's insurance policies.

The system was thrown into a crisis amid billions in recent losses, stemming from hurricanes, earthquakes and asbestos lawsuits.

Many of the bankrupted investors say they were victimised by market insiders who unfairly placed them at too much risk.

China sets anti-corruption rules for stock staff

BEIJING (R) — China's top stock market watchdog has published a set of anti-corruption rules governing officials monitoring the country's infant securities markets, official news reports said Wednesday.

Zhu Lin, secretary general of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), said the 23 new rules would "place securities officials under the supervision of the public and prevent insider trading," Xinhua news agency said.

Under the new rules, officials at both the CSRC and the cabinet's Stock Exchange Executive Council (SEEC) are prohibited from buying or possessing stocks or working with any businesses involved in securities trading.

Staff "will be sacked and, in serious cases, prosecuted according to law" if they are found to be taking bribes. Companies that try to bribe securities officials will risk suspension of their business licences and a ban on any new stock issues.

Analysts project slower growth in U.S. next year

WASHINGTON (AP) — After speeding up in the second half of 1993, the U.S. economy will slow again next year because of the Clinton administration budget and health-care plans, some top economists believe.

The newsletter Blue Chip Economic Indicators reported Tuesday that the consensus forecast of 51 economists in an early August survey projected economic growth of 2.8 per cent in all of 1994.

That would be down from annual growth rates of 3.1 per cent projected for the current July-September quarter and 3.3 per cent for the final three months of 1993, according to the Sedona, Arizona, publication.

Editor Robert said many of the economists did not believe the full effects of higher gasoline and personal income tax increases in the Clinton budget package would be felt until next year, thus permitting faster growth in the last six months of 1993.

"Several also said fears of still higher taxes to pay for the Clinton administration's plans to expand medical coverage to those now uninsured will add to uncertainty next year in the business community, hampering business spending and hiring," Mr. Eggert wrote.

President Clinton, who signed the budget bill Tuesday, has not yet submitted his health-care proposals.

The survey found 36 of the 51 analysts had lowered their 1993

economic forecast since the July poll. The latest consensus forecast projected economic growth of 2.5 per cent, down 0.1 percentage points from a month earlier.

As recently as April, the Blue Chip economists had predicted the economy would expand by 3.3 per cent this year.

The Clinton administration also is lowering its growth forecast for the gross domestic product (GDP) this year, according to Laura D'Andrea Tyson, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors. The GDP is the total output of goods and services in the United States.

Although the administration also is looking for a significant pickup in economic activity in the second half of the year, Mr. Tyson told reporters last week it would shave its GDP forecast to 2.1 per cent, from 3.1 per cent earlier in the year.

"Now 28 months old, the current economic recovery is the slowest in post-World War II history," Mr. Eggert said, contrasting this year's projected growth with the 6.2 per cent expansion in the second year after the 1981-82 recession.

In addition to new taxes, the Blue Chip economists also cited as reasons for lowering their latest forecast the government's report that the GDP grew at an anemic 1.6 per cent annual rate in the second quarter and extremely slow growth overseas that is curbing U.S. exports.

IMF suspends Sudan for non-payment of debt

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The IMF has suspended Sudan because it has run up \$1.6 billion in arrears on its debt to the international financial organisation.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) board took this "very difficult decision" Friday in a meeting with the Sudan finance minister, an IMF spokesman said.

It is the first time the IMF has suspended a member country.

In Khartoum, the Sudanese minister for international cooperation, Sabana Jambu, told a state-owned newspaper Tuesday that the decision was politically motivated and unfair.

Mr. Jambu said Sudan has tried to cooperate with the international lending giant by adopting economic reforms and that suspending the country would not help the IMF get its money back.

The IMF acted because of what it said was Sudan's unwillingness to take measures it prescribed to improve the economy.

After efforts to persuade Sudan to comply in 1984, 1986 and 1990 the government finally showed signs of cooperation in August last year, but then last month it cancelled the programme.

The IMF then decided there was no point in showing further indulgence and suspended its membership.

Sudan promised Friday to cooperate with the IMF and an IMF mission would be visiting Sudan shortly to try to resolve the problems, the IMF spokesman said.

The suspension could quickly be revoked if the two sides reach agreement, he added.

Australia's treasurer plans grand strategy to repair budget

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Treasurer John Dawkins has promised to reveal next week a grand strategy to repair Australia's recession-damaged budget.

But at the same time he will announce a record budget deficit for 1993/94 of around 16 billion Australian dollars (\$10.8 billion), the largest in Australian history despite efforts at restraint.

"There will be some difficult measures in there," Mr. Dawkins said on television Tuesday.

"There will be reductions in expenditure and there will be increases in taxes," he added.

But financial markets appear unworried by the prospect of the record deficit for the budget, which covers the year to June 1994.

Interest rates on the government's bonds are at record lows, despite the threat of more debt flooding the market. The deficit in 1992/93 was 14.6 billion Australian dollars (\$9.9 billion).

The focus will be on whether Mr. Dawkins can produce a credible long-term plan to get the

budget near balance, analysts say.

Australia ran a series of budget surpluses before the recession, peaking at 6.4 billion Australian dollars (\$5 billion) — more than two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) — in 1989/90 as a result of seven years of spending restraint and rapid economic growth.

The recession changed all that and surpluses disappeared as tax collections slumped and social security costs skyrocketed.

Mr. Dawkins has promised to get the deficit back to one per cent of GDP by 1996/97 — around 5 billion Australian dollars (\$3.4 billion).

Analysts such as National Australia Bank economist Alan Oster say the budget will not get there on its own, even with annual GDP growth above three per cent over the next few years.

Analysts say cutting the deficit is essential, because of Australia's low level of savings and great need to increase investment, which has collapsed during the recession.

Mexican foreign debt rises to \$111.2 billion

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mexico's foreign debt rose to a record \$111.2 billion in April, with most of the increase coming in private sector borrowing, according to figures published Tuesday.

The record debt, breaking the record of \$107.4 billion set in 1987, is made up of \$77.3 billion in public sector debt, \$12.4 billion in borrowings by privately-owned businesses, and \$21.5 billion in debts of private banks.

Mexico's debt was down to \$100.3 billion when the current government took office in 1988.

At that time, the public sector debt — including borrowings by the Bank of Mexico — totalled \$81 billion, while private businesses owed \$7.1 billion and the then state-owned banks \$7.4 billion.

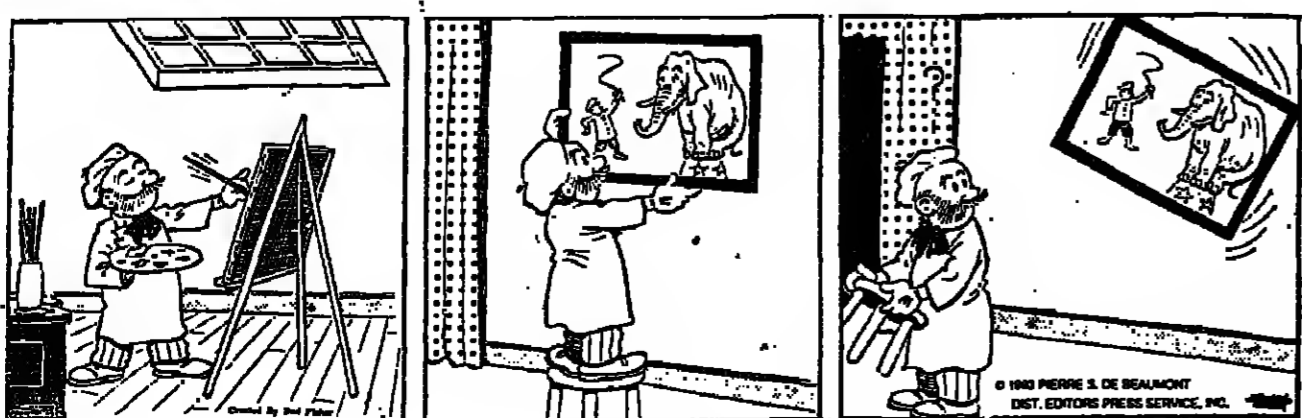
Peanuts



Andy Capp



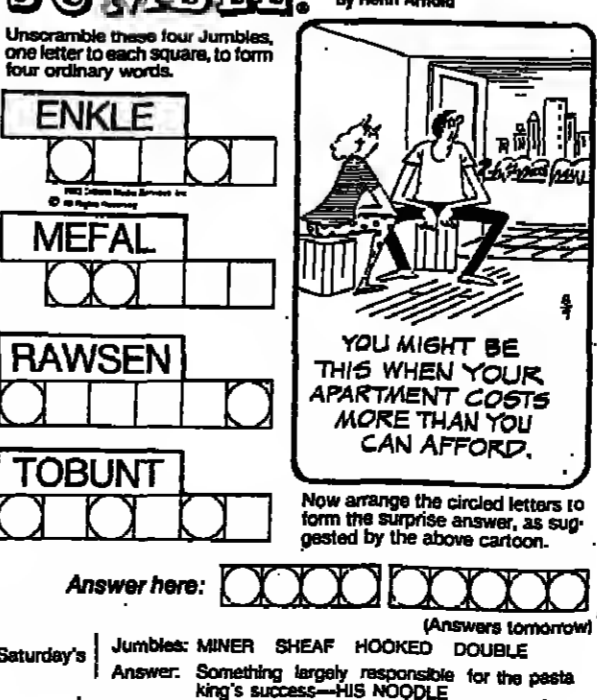
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

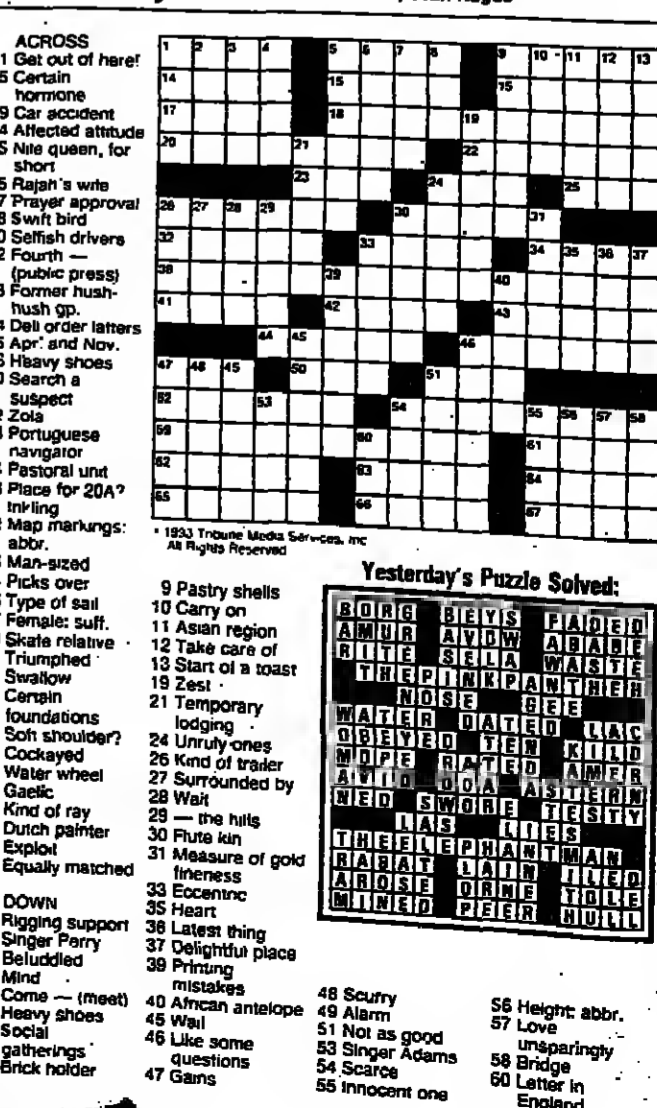


JUMBLE



Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword



France makes bigger rate cut

PARIS (R) — France took its biggest step yet Wednesday to lower interest rates after the virtual float of the franc in Europe's currency grid nine days ago. But the central bank is still going slowly, keeping a wary eye on the currency.

The Bank of France lowered the rate at which it offered commercial banks funds overnight by half a percentage point to 9.25 per cent.

But the more important five-to-10 days lending rate was left at 10 per cent — another signal the bank is taking a softly, softly approach after the Aug. 2 overhaul of Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM), which left most currencies with wider bands of fluctuation.

"This is still the policy of small steps," said Patrick Mangan, an economist at Deutsche Bank in Paris.

Many had expected France to loosen monetary policy dramatically after the franc, along with other currencies, was set free from the constraints of the high-interest German mark.

The economy is bogged down in recession and unemployment, already at a record 11.6 per cent, is still rising.

But the government insists that it will hold the franc steady against the mark.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has made it clear that he would resign before throwing up France's long-cherished policy of a strong franc.

The currency nudged higher after Wednesday's rate cut to around 3.5130 per mark — some

2.5 per cent below its rate before the rejoin of ERM bands.

Shares on the Paris Bourse rose almost one per cent to record highs as hopes that falling interest rates will give French industry a much-needed boost.

To guard the franc the Bank of France has been slow to cut rates from the heights they scaled during the vicious assault on the franc's old ERM parities by speculators last month.

The central bank reopened its five-to-10 day loan window on Friday after having suspended it on July 22 and then lowered the rate on 24-hour funds to 9.75 per cent from 10 per cent Monday.

Moves by the Bundesbank, whose slowness to cut its own rates took much of the blame for the storm that pried the ERM apart, are also likely to be under scrutiny by the Bank of France.

The German central bank signalled that it was in no hurry to cut interest rates by fixing the rate for Wednesday's securities repurchase tender at an unchanged 7.80 per cent.

Dealers said it was trying to stabilise the German overnight money rate at just above the key 6.75 per cent discount rate.

Analysts said the Bank of France has also been slow to cut rates because it is selling francs to recoup the tens of billions of dollars worth of currency reserves it ran down in its vain attempt to prop up the franc last month.

Analysts said they see this gradual policy continuing through the rest of the summer, with cuts in the more flexible 24-hour rate being used to test the water for

cuts in the live-to-10-day rate, which sets a ceiling on market rates.

The key intervention rate, which was cut nine times in as many weeks before July's ERM crisis, is unlikely to resume a downward path from its current 6.65 per cent for some weeks.

But Mr. Balladur is unlikely to wait much beyond mid-September.

Industry chiefs and some members of his own centre-right coalition are calling for him to use his new-found freedom from the mark to quicken the pace of rate cuts. Their voices are likely to reach a crescendo after the summer break.

Meanwhile, the French, who normally dip into savings to keep up their standards of living in an economic downturn, are not doing so far the first time, thereby aggravating France's deepest recession since World War II.

Savings have steadily gone up since 1987 to reach 12.8 per cent of income in 1992 and 13.1 per cent this year, according to economic projections.

An indication was the take-up of the recent government bond issue, which raised 110 billion francs (\$18.34 billion) vastly more than the 40 billion anticipated.

Worried by unemployment and what the future holds, and tempted by unprecedented interest rates on savings in the short term, the French are hanging onto their centimes.

As a result, consumer spending, one of the engines of growth, has slumped. In May it was at its lowest level for four years.

S. Arabia seeks to attract industrial investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has introduced new incentives to attract foreign industrial investment as part of its attempts to diversify its oil-dependent economy.

The incentives, including tax exemptions, coincide with reports that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had asked the Saudis to tackle a persistent budget deficit created by a sharp decline in oil prices.

The new facilities were introduced recently by the Saudi finance and national economy ministry and contained in a letter distributed by the kingdom's embassies abroad, according to the Saudi embassy here.

Under the new rules, foreign partners seeking to expand their industrial projects in Saudi Ara-

bia would be temporarily exempted from income taxes.

"Foreign capital invested in expanding any industrial project in Saudi Arabia will be exempted from income and corporate taxes whether the expansion is financed through undistributed profits or funds transferred by the foreign partner from abroad," said the letter, obtained by AFP Tuesday.

"The new regulation is within the kingdom's economic policy which encourages foreign investment in joint projects."

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has stepped up a drive to expand the industrial sector to diversify sources of income since its oil earnings began to shrink in the past decade due to lower oil prices and a decline in production by nearly four million

barrels per day.

The drive has made headway with the investment of around \$30 billion in more than 1,880 medium and small factories. Industrial exports also exceeded \$5 billion in 1992.

But oil has remained the main component of the economy, with the annual budget tailored according to crude export earnings, which plunged to \$40 billion in 1992 from more than \$100 billion in 1981.

The decline has created a persistent budget deficit despite a large reduction in expenditure. The deficit stood at \$8 billion in 1992 and was projected at \$7.4 billion in fiscal 1993, when revenues were expected at \$45.1 billion and spending at \$52.5 billion.

Quoting an IMF report, the Nicosia-based Middle East Economy survey said Riyadh had expressed readiness to make important cuts in the 1993 budget.

"Even if the 1993 budget is implemented effectively, the medium-term outlook is still for growing budgetary and external account deficits because expenditure growth, even if modest, will not be matched by increased oil receipts," the newsletter quoted the IMF as saying.

"With the current oil market expectations, the overall budget deficit would grow steadily to eight per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) — in 1997 and the government debt, as a percentage of the GDP, would rise to 80 per cent."

Saudi Arabia produces around eight million b/d of oil under an

OPEC output agreement and its 1993 budget was based on an average oil price of \$16.

Spending in the 1993 was higher by around \$4 billion over 1992, and economists have described it as an expansionary budget, which is needed to activate the economy as it relies heavily on government expenditure.

According to the Saudi letter, the new investment rules apply only to institutions in which the national partnership is within the specified limit. It did not elaborate but Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states stipulate locals should own at least 51 per cent of any joint venture.

"The period of exemption from taxes is equivalent to the period of exemption given to the project when it was first set up," it said.

New trade minister says Japan must open markets

TOKYO (AP) — In a departure from the defensive stance of his predecessors, Japan's new trade minister has spoken out harshly in favour of opening his country's "extremely closed" markets.

But Trade Minister Hiroshi Kumagai said he remained opposed to U.S. requests to set numerical targets for increasing imports.

"Japanese markets are extremely closed in invisible ways," Mr. Kumagai said in an interview published Wednesday in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a leading economic newspaper.

Mr. Kumagai was interviewed after his inauguration Monday as

a member of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's seven-party coalition government, which ousted the long-ruling Liberal Democrats.

"It is natural that the United States and Europe view Japan as strange," said Mr. Kumagai, a former trade ministry official with a reputation for outspokenness. "Our ways must be corrected if Japanese business hopes to survive in the international community."

Trade ministry officials played down the importance of Mr. Kumagai's comments, saying that new cabinet members often make comments that do not necessarily

reflect the stance of the bureaucrats that permanently staff their ministries.

In recent months, the ministry has strongly objected to criticisms that Japan's markets are closed. Officials boast of the world's lowest tariffs on industrial goods and say that much of Japan's mammoth trade surplus results from macroeconomic trends beyond their control.

But Japan's \$50 billion trade surplus with the United States remains a thorny issue as the two nations head for trade framework talks this fall.

Mr. Kumagai's comment appeared as Japan announced

that in July, its global trade surplus had climbed 28 per cent from July 1992 — the 31st consecutive month of expansion from year-earlier levels.

The global surplus was \$11.82 billion in July, and that with the United States was \$4.68 billion, up 23 per cent from a year earlier, the finance ministry said.

In the Nihon Keizai interview, Mr. Kumagai admitted that Japanese big business often conducts behind-the-scenes deals that exclude foreign and new companies from Japanese markets.

He said it was like the "fierce dango" system, that operates

among construction companies. "Dango" participants customarily rig bids to ensure each company a certain share in major projects.

"We will have the surplus problem again and again unless we open the areas that are being criticised as closed," Mr. Kumagai said.

Mr. Kumagai also said he opposed U.S. demands that Japan set numerical targets for righting the trade imbalance. "Japan is trying to increase the transparency of its markets, but that will not improve if new regulations become necessary to achieve targets."

Ferruzzi announces huge new losses

MILAN (R) — The Ferruzzi Group, caught up in a scandal over its heavy debts and alleged involvement in Italy's graft scandal, Tuesday reported huge new losses in five-month interim data, large amounts of it run up between 1989 and 1992.

Ferruzzi Finanziaria, which heads Italy's second largest private group, announced losses of 1.165 trillion lire (\$737 million) between January and the end of May.

Of that, more than 644.5 billion lire (\$397.1 million) were recently discovered in an inquiry conducted by accountants Deloitte and Touche, Ferruzzi said.

But a company spokesman said that 544.2 billion lire (\$335.3 million) of those extra losses had been incurred between 1989 and 1992 and should have been charged to those balance sheets.

In a further blow to its already tattered image, Ferruzzi also proposed a 200-fold cut in the face value of its shares to five lire (0.3 cents) from 1,000 (63 cents).

The new losses are more than double the 491 billion lire (\$310 million) executives had originally reported for the first five months at Ferruzzi's annual general meeting in June.

"They were all trading losses which concern other periods not the first five months of this year," the spokesman said. The trading mainly involved cereals and other grains.

They would, however, figure in this year's results for Ferruzzi Finanziaria, for which five Italian and two foreign banks are preparing a rescue plan. Ferruzzi is sagging under the burden of 31 trillion lire (\$19.58 billion) of debts.

It is the second time Ferruzzi has had to own up to having lost more money than it said previously.

In June, Montedison SPA, the group's main industrial company, announced 320 million of extra losses in 1992 forcing it and Fer-

ruzzi to restate their losses for 1992.

It also sparked a probe for false accounting that landed several ex-Ferruzzi executives including Carlo Sama, its former vice-chairman, in jail on suspicion of false accounting.

Because of the cut in Ferruzzi shares, the company's nominal capital will be slashed to 205 billion lire (\$129 million) from (\$867 million). Ferruzzi will then exchange packets of 200 shares for one new share worth 1,000 lire each.

The move has to be approved by shareholders at a meeting set for the end of August. A writedown became legally necessary after huge losses suffered in 1992.

Its shares, suspended Tuesday pending the announcement, had been trading on the Milan Bourse at less than half their nominal value.

Share analysts say a writedown of the share value would be a necessary step for any future move to raise fresh funds through a capital increase to deal with the debt burden.

Management, suspecting fraud, has won temporary authority to seize up to 500 billion lire (\$312 million) of assets from the Ferruzzi family and former executives.

The Ferruzzi family, which formally controls the group, called in its bankers in June because it could no longer keep up payments on the group's huge debts.

But since then, the company has been sucked deeply into the country's corruption scandal after former executives confessed to having paid huge bribes to politicians.

Former family head and Ferruzzi chief executive Raul Gardini committed suicide last month just before police were due to arrest him in connection with bribes allegedly paid by the company to extricate itself from a failed chemicals joint venture with state energy firm ENI.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.2953/58	Canadian dollar
	1.7135/45	Deutschemarks
	1.9300/10	Dutch guilders
	1.5225/35	Swiss francs
	36.52/62	Belgian francs
	6.0200/00	French francs
	1615.57/5	Italian lire
	103.75/85	Japanese yen
	7.9960/16	Swedish crowns
	7.4450/65	Norwegian crowns
	6.9823/43	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4710/20	
One ounce of gold	\$381.45/381.95	

Digital diaries become popular among high school students in Japan

THOUGH it was originally developed for business people, digital diaries are now the object of a super boom among primary and junior high school girls in Japan. In fact, some 20,000 units were sold during the first two weeks that the CASIO Super Digital Diary Junior was put onto the market.

In addition to an innovative Fun Face Maker Function, the Super Digital Diary Junior includes a Secret Memory area to store the telephone numbers, birthdays, and other information about those "special" friends.

Young girls seem to enjoy using such functions as they mimic the personal data management of grown ups.

THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 624167, 624168
P.O. BOX 1908
AMMAN

CROWN INTL. EST.
Packing, shipping Forwarding, storage worldwide Removals Air, Sea and Land

TEL: 66 40 90
FAX: 69 08 52
POST: 92 64 87
Amman-Jordan

Amman International Hotel

LIVE MUSIC AT PIANO BAR
Café Italia Rest.

Tel: 841712 / 841713

DANZAS
INTERNATIONAL DOOR TO DOOR REMOVALS
GERMAN DRIVERS - AIR - RIDDEN REMOVAL TRUCKS
YOUR REGULAR LINK TO AND FROM EUROPE
SPECIALISTS FOR DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS
IN THE NEAR EAST
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
EASTERN SERVICES
OFFICIAL DANZAS AGENT IN JORDAN
TEL: 621 775 TLX: 23023 FAX: 656 270
PEACE BUILDING - JABAL LWEIBOEH
AMMAN - JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- * JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- * Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweithel tel: 823891

4 RENT & SALE
Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale, furnished or unfurnished.
- Also many plots of land are available for sale.
For further details, please call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605/810609
Fax: 810520

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...
"Satellite T.V. Reception"

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel: 683193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax: 682434
Telex 23868 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Hisham International Tours
"THE RELIABLE NAME IN JORDAN"
Book now & Join our classy summer trips (8) days (7) nights

- * Istanbul \$800 H/B & tours
- * Antalya \$ 800 H/B
- * Turkish Riviera \$800 H/B
- * Cyprus \$770 B/B
- * All in 5 star INTL HTLS

Specialists in Tailor-made Outgoing Tours & Hotel reservations at International & Luxury Hotels in Turkey, Cyprus & Egypt
Our first class services & moderate prices make sense for leisure & business travellers
Tel: 698180/698181, Fax 689307

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
n.10 - Midnight

红房子餐厅
Authentic Chinese dishes, from all great regional cuisines styles of China.
Prepared by our Chinese chefs
Open daily for lunch & dinner
Take away services
Jabal Al Hussein Ministry of Trade & Industrial Bld. 6, Industrial Rd.
Tel: 623004

MANDARIN RESTAURANT
Special Chinese Foods Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 12:30-3:30 & 8:00-11:30 daily
Take away is available
Wadi Sagor Road near Phaladpina Hotel
Tel: 641922, Amman
Once Tasted Always Loved

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel: 638968

The Old Pub
Pool Table
Happy Hour
FREE Munchies & Reduced Drink Prices
7 - 9 PM Daily
642401

THE SUMMER TERRACE IS NOW OPEN
Valentino
JABAL AMMAN FIRST CIRCLE OPPOSITE THE BLACK BUILDING
TEL: 654205

Kashmir Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches Take away service available
Open Daily 12:30 - 3:30 pm 7:30 - 11:30 pm
After the Philadelphi Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519, 659520

Terrace Restaurant & Tapas Bar
International Dishes & Spanish Specialities
Bonita
Open Lunch & Dinner
Jabal Amman - 3rd Circle For Reservation Tel 618000-1

La Coquette
French Cuisine
Lunch & Dinner 7 days a week
Tel: 680093/4 Fax: 823864
Shmeisani-Near Babish Amman-Jordan

Graffiti
Rock Cafe
Live Band
639197
Couples Only, or Groups of Ladies & Gents
Open Daily

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel: 667171 ext. 223

Bosnian Serbs deny reneging on pullout, sign ceasefire terms

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnian Serb forces Wednesday denied reneging on a promise to withdraw from two mountain strongholds threatening Sarajevo — a key step to resumption of peace talks in Geneva.

The Bosnian Serb army command said it was simply replacing "exhausted" units until U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops can take over the territory as a buffer zone between Serb and Muslim-led forces.

"Withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb Republic army from the mountains depends primarily on the readiness of UNPROFOR to place strategically important points on the mountains under its control," army Commander General Ratko Mladic said.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said the command "denied reports... that Serb forces had Tuesday again taken control of Mounts Igman and Bjelasnica."

The statement said they had pulled out of Bjelasnica entirely and were leaving Mount Igman, which overlooks Sarajevo, progressively.

"A replacement (took) place on Mount Igman of exhausted Serb units, which were waiting on their lines for UNPROFOR to take over control," it said.

"The objective of the fresh Serb units was not to retain control of the positions on the mountain."

French UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force) troops

sent up to the two mountains to monitor the Serb withdrawal said Tuesday that it had been reversed.

"They took back all the positions they had given us and we were left with nothing," a French officer said.

Peace efforts suffered a fresh blow Tuesday when the French reported the Serbs had not withdrawn as promised.

A Serb pullout is the fundamental condition set by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for resuming the stalled talks.

The Western military alliance NATO has warned that it is ready to launch air strikes against Serb positions if they block peace by maintaining their military pressure on Sarajevo.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the threat of NATO air strikes had almost destroyed the negotiations.

Mr. Izetbegovic had stopped cooperating "in the hope that air strikes against Serbian positions will take place," he told Belgrade Radio, accusing NATO of acting "extremely irresponsible."

In an interview with Reuters Tuesday, the Serb leader said the withdrawal from Igman was 50 per cent complete and with luck would be finished Wednesday.

After a marathon 17-hour session at Sarajevo Airport, Bosnia's warring armies signed an "unconditional ceasefire" Wednesday, the Bosnian Serb

News Agency SRNA reported.

The document, part of the Geneva peace plan designed to split the republic into three, would come into effect only "after the final signing at the Geneva peace talks," SRNA said.

It quoted Gen. Mladic, who took part in the talks, as saying the important task now was to actually stop the fighting, which continued overnight on several Bosnian battlefields.

Expressing scepticism, Bosnian Croat commander General Milivoj Petkovic said the whole thing would be "a complete waste of time" unless the talks in Geneva continued and an all-round peace agreement on Bosnia was signed.

The ceasefire terms accord was signed at 4.30 a.m. (0230 GMT) after between Gen. Mladic, Gen. Petkovic and the Bosnian Muslim-led army chief General Rasim Delic. The United Nations was represented by Sarajevo commander General Francis Brimicombe.

SRNA said the agreement "regulates an unconditional ceasefire between the warring sides."

"It measures its implementation, separation of forces, monitoring of borders, restoration of infrastructure and security of freedom of movement in all parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina," the agency said.

Sarajevo was quiet, cool and rainy Wednesday, awaiting fresh reports from the U.N. observers in mountains to clarify the milit-

ary situation.

The United States criticised Tuesday a reported effort by international mediator Lord David Owen to persuade Bosnians to give Serbs control over part of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, to get a truce.

"It doesn't fit with the central thrust" of peace talks that resumed in Geneva Monday, U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters. "A multi-ethnic Sarajevo is a central element of the idea of a multi-ethnic Bosnia."

A Washington Post columnist, Jim Hoagland, reported Tuesday that Lord Owen, the former British foreign secretary who is mediating among the warring groups, was asking the Bosnians to divide Sarajevo.

NATO Monday approved military plans for air raids against the Serbs but fell short of ordering immediate action.

The U.S. Defense Department welcomed Tuesday the NATO action. "Another arrow was added to the quiver" if the Sarajevo siege and humanitarian aid blocks continue or if Geneva negotiations fail, Mike Doubleday, the Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released Tuesday said that most Americans supported U.S. air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs, but only if they were done with European allies.

The survey of 1,216 Americans



Bosnian Serb soldiers walk to their recently captured positions on Mount Igman near Sarajevo (AFP photo)

found that 85 per cent of those questioned would support allied air strikes to protect U.N. forces and 60 per cent would back air strike to relieve Sarajevo. But only 26 per cent supported unilateral air strikes by the United States while 70 per cent were opposed.

Meanwhile, doctors treating the Bosnian girl seen as a symbol of the spirit of Sarajevo said Wednesday she was critical after suffering a severe deterioration overnight and needed drugs to keep her heart pumping.

Five-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic, evacuated from Bosnia two days ago in a British Air

Force relief mission, was in a coma on a life support machine and her condition has worsened from stable to critical, London's Great Ormond Street Hospital said.

The girl's relapse disappointed doctors and well-wishers who had hoped she was heading for recovery after surviving three hours of emergency surgery to drain fluid associated with the brain infection meningitis and remove shrapnel from her body.

"Overnight there's been a marked deterioration in Irma's condition," neurologist Kathy Wilkinson told reporters.

"She's requiring drugs to sup-

port her heart and she underwent an emergency scan which confirmed that further spinal surgery would not be helpful at this stage. It shows abnormalities associated with her severe meningitis. She remains unconscious and very sick... and is being constantly monitored."

Doctors said Irma had suffered a bacterial infection and had been given a large dose of antibiotics.

Irma's suffering, and perhaps the publicity she has generated, has persuaded Prime Minister John Major to offer other injured Bosnian children a safe haven and his government was expected to announce a wider rescue mission Wednesday.

I've had it with dinosaurs — Jurassic Park star

WELLINGTON (R) — Sam Neill, star of blockbuster movie Jurassic Park, says he's had enough of dinosaurs but will not rule out a "Jurassic Park 2." "I've had it with dinosaurs," said Neill, a New Zealander, when he arrived for the local premiere of the movie that has broken box office records since it opened last month in the United States. Neill plays paleontologist Alan Grant in the movie, about a dinosaur theme park that goes disastrously wrong. He said pressure for a follow-up to Jurassic Park was likely to be strong. "We all had a fair idea it was going to be a big film. Everything (director Steven Spielberg) does is pretty big but no one had any idea it would take off with such velocity and it's still going like the clappers," Neill told New Zealand's TV3 on his arrival in his homeland. "The thing has been so colossal a success that I imagine there will be a great deal of pressure from the powers-that-be to make another one. Whether or not they pick on me is another thing altogether," he added. Neill said that after a year of close involvement with dinosaurs, he planned a holiday after attending Thursday's New Zealand premiere.

Glue may replace surgeon's stitches

LONDON (AFP) — A new super glue for joining the skin may soon replace the surgeon's traditional sutures, reducing scarring and infections. The Times newspaper reported Wednesday. The glue, developed at Bradford University, northern England, by Professor Terry Baker and Dr. Alan Roberts, is applied in tiny amounts to the edges of the skin and bonds it together in seconds. The process is quicker and no more expensive than conventional sutures, the paper said. Similar glues already exist, but the scientists are billing this as a new improved version which comes complete with specially-designed application. The glue has so far only been used on individual patients.

Psst, want a doctorate?

SEOUL (R) — South Korean authorities have arrested 37 people for fraudulently obtaining doctorates and masters degrees and seven others who wrote their theses for them, the Seoul prosecutors office said Wednesday. "Seven people have been arrested for writing theses for 37 people. And the 37 people who got their masters and doctorates by such means have been arrested," the official said. He said the 37 would be stripped of their qualification service company, Lee Kyu-Chol, 30, who is accused of churning out 22 theses since July 1989. He is alleged to have received 26 million won (\$32,500) for his efforts.

Stolen masterpieces worth \$9m recovered

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. authorities have recovered nine stolen masterpiece paintings valued at more than \$9 million and arrested two men suspected in the theft, the FBI said. The artwork, stolen in February 1992 from a locked storage compartment in the suburb of Northridge, included works by Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Edgar Degas, Eugene Delacroix, Amedeo Modigliani and other painters, said FBI spokesman Ron Twersky. "They are all valuable original artworks," Mr. Twersky said. The two suspects were taken into custody peacefully after a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Identical twins have identical surgery

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — Twins Emma Hughes and Eva Judkins are identical right down to their gall bladders. The 84-year-old sisters, who both married in 1928 and moved to Henryetta, Oklahoma, in 1970, underwent surgery Tuesday at St. Francis Hospital to remove their gall bladders. "They've always told us they were identical. I think this pretty well proves it," said Lavada Henderson, Mrs. Hughes' daughter. The operations were successful, a hospital spokeswoman said. Dr. Roger Siemens, one of the surgeons, said it's not uncommon for twins to develop the same disease at the same time, but he admits this case is unusual. Mrs. Judkins' condition was diagnosed weeks earlier and surgery was scheduled. Mrs. Hughes had an attack over the weekend and doctors recommended Monday that her gall bladder be removed. "Why would Mrs.

Angola government says rebels losing in Cuito

SAO TOME (Agencies) — The Angolan government said Wednesday it had repelled UNITA rebels from central parts of the city of Cuito, where hundreds of people have been killed in recent heavy fighting.

State radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said it had pushed the rebels back to the outskirts, from where they continued to shell the central highlands city.

The radio denied reports that UNITA had gained the advantage in Cuito. UNITA had controlled some streets but the situation had now been reversed, it added.

UNITA said Tuesday it had seized part of Cuito, where the government says rebel shelling has killed more than 200 civilians in the past few days.

Hospital sources quoted by Angolan state radio said more than 20 civilians were killed in shelling Tuesday. The report, monitored by the British Broad-

casting Corporation (BBC), said another 50 injured people could die within hours because of a shortage of medicines.

Angolan Television said UNITA had embarked on an "extraordinary offensive" against Cuito and had shelled the most densely populated areas, wounding at least 200.

"Given the serious shortage of medicines, such wounds are practically death certificates," it said.

The rebels and the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government signed an agreement in 1991 to end a civil war which had raged since independence from Portugal in 1975.

But UNITA (The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) returned to the bush after rejecting its defeat by the MPLA in U.N.-supervised elections last September.

The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted military sources

as saying 14,000 people have been killed in the seven-month rebel attack on Cuito, a town of 250,000 people. If confirmed, such a death toll would make the battle for the city the most deadly of the civil war.

UNITA Radio said its troops had killed 23 government soldiers near Benguela, capital of Benguela province on the coast, and seized weapons and ammunition.

Government planes had carried out air raids in western Kwanza Sul province, hitting residential areas, rebel radio added. It gave no casualty toll.

On Tuesday night state television said government forces were carrying out "mopping-up operations" in Cubal, Benguela province, to eliminate pockets of UNITA resistance.

UNITA says government air raids on the rebel capital Huambo in the central highlands, some 100 kilometres west of Cuito, have killed more than 200 civi-

lians over the past week.

UNITA took Huambo, Angola's second city with a population of 500,000, in March after a siege in which an estimated 12,000 people were killed.

Russia said Tuesday it is ready to provide military aid to its former Angolan government ally — despite an arms embargo imposed to bring peace to the southern African nation.

The embargo was part of a May 1991 peace accord.

At a news conference Tuesday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin blamed rebel leader Jonas Savimbi for a "new spiral of bloodshed" in Angola.

Mr. Karasin said Angola's government must defend its population.

"It is thus expedient to give the government of Angola diversified aid, including military aid, if that is what is needed to stabilise the situation in the country," he said.

Blast kills five in Georgian market

TBILISI, Georgia (Agencies) — A powerful blast killed five people and wounded 20 Wednesday when it ripped through a market place in the Georgian town of Marneti, police said.

Irakly Batiasvili, head of the Georgian Information and Intelligence Service, told Reuters it could have been a bomb attack.

"So far there is no definitive version (but) I do not exclude that it was politically motivated," Mr. Batiasvili said.

Marneti, a town to the southeast of the Georgian capital Tbilisi, is the centre of a region with a large Azeri population. A gas pipeline going through the area to neighbouring Armenia has been blown up several times.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are waging an undeclared war which has killed thousands of people over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mostly by Armenians who want to break away from Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile representatives of Georgia and its breakaway region of Abkhazia have set a new date to withdraw armed forces from the troubled area.

The two sides decided after talks late Tuesday that the pull-out would begin Saturday and end at midnight on August 16. A ceasefire agreement signed late last month said the withdrawal would take place over two weeks.

The Georgian side has not yet started to move its troops out, saying it was waiting for international observers to arrive to monitor the withdrawal.

An advance team of eight U.N. military observers arrived in the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi Tuesday. They, observers from Russia, and representatives from the two feuding sides will jointly monitor the pullout.

Georgia says some 4,000 people have been killed in fighting since Georgian troops moved into the region a year ago following demands for more independence from the local parliament.

A Russian-mediated ceasefire has generally held since the end of July, although each side has accused the other of violating the truce.

The rebels say groups of armed volunteers from the Russian side of the Caucasus, who had been fighting on their side, have mostly left.

In a separate development, the chief of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's bodyguards, Eldar Gogoladze, has been suspended pending a probe into the killing Sunday of a U.S. diplomat in Tbilisi, Interfax said Wednesday.

Mr. Gogoladze was travelling in a jeep with Fred Woodruff, the regional affairs officer in the political section of the U.S. embassy in Tbilisi, when the latter was shot once in the head and killed.

Interfax gave no details on the investigation into the killing. Sources close to Georgian forensic experts involved in the probe told AFP Tuesday that preliminary indications showed the shot that killed Mr. Woodruff was fired from within the vehicle.

A Georgian Interior Ministry official speaking on condition of anonymity had said earlier that the two men were accompanied in the vehicle by two women.

Rebels seize 4 Russians, 1 Kazakh on Tajik border

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — The Tajik government said Wednesday that four Russian soldiers and a Kazakh officer guarding the frontier with Afghanistan had been seized by guerrillas in a raid from across the border.

A Foreign Ministry statement described it as an attempt to disrupt peace talks between the two Central Asian states and demanded that Afghanistan return the five.

The Tajik and Afghan foreign ministers began a second day of talks Wednesday in Dushanbe in the highest level bilateral contact since fighting on the border intensified a month ago.

The five, part of a force under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States, were captured after their vehicle was attacked by guerrillas Tuesday, said the statement, read out by ministry spokesman Zafar Saidov.

One of the captured soldiers was wounded.

They were seized along Afghanistan's border with the unstable Gorno-Badakhshan region of this former Soviet republic, where the ex-Communist government is battling Tajik rebels from rival clans supported by Islamic guerrillas from Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry statement did not specify those it blamed for the incident but demanded that the "Afghan side" return the five soldiers and punish whoever had kidnapped them.

"The Tajik leadership qualifies this as a provocation intended to undermine the talks which have started recently and the plans for a summit between Afghanistan and Tajikistan," Mr. Saidov added, reading from the state-

ment. Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsalan and Tajikistan's Rashid Alimov are discussing ways to defuse the conflict and trying to set a date for a meeting between Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Tajik leader Imomali Rakhmonov.

Hostilities along the border began early this year after Muslim forces lost a civil war to ex-communist troops. They fled in their thousands to northern Afghanistan, from where they have staged a series of guerrilla attacks.

Last month their sputtering offensive reached a crescendo when, helped by Afghan Mujahideen fighters, the rebels killed 25 of Russian Border Guards sent by Moscow to protect the Tajik side of the border.

The deaths provoked outrage in Russia and generated a whirl of diplomatic activity. The current talks in Dushanbe centre on a Tajik effort to enlist Kabul to pressure leaders in northern Afghanistan to stop aiding the Tajik rebels.

The Afghan side, for its part, wants Russian troops to withdraw from Tajikistan and an end to what they allege is Russian shelling of Afghan territory. The Russian border troops deny attacking targets on Afghan soil.

Several doubts cloud the future of the talks. One is over whether the authority of Kabul's faction-ridden government is strong enough to influence local leaders along the frontier.

Ten Border Guards captured in March this year were handed back to Tajikistan in April.

Conservatives, Liberal Democrats even - U.K. poll

LONDON (R) — The centrist Liberal Democrats drew level with Britain's ruling Conservative Party in an opinion poll released Wednesday, underlining the slump in support for Prime Minister John Major's government.

The ICM poll in the Guardian newspaper showed Conservative support remained at 28 per cent in August, while the Liberal Democrats added five points to their July figure of 23 per cent.

Support for the main opposition Labour Party fell to 40 per cent from 42. If the poll results were repeated in an election, Labour would have 384 seats in the 651-seat parliament, the Guardian said.

The Liberal Democrats have overturned huge government majorities at two recent parliamentary by-elections in the south of England.

After the Conservatives' defeat at Christchurch in July two opinion polls, by Mori and Gallup, showed the Conservatives lying third behind the Liberal Democrats and Labour.

The ICM poll showed that 48 per cent of the 1,446 people questioned wanted to prevent a Conservative victory at the next election, due by mid-1997.

Asked which of the main parties they least wanted to win the election, 30 per cent said Labour and only five per cent said the Liberal Democrats.

Meanwhile, John Major has

probably started to relax for the first time in months, but there are whispers in the wind that bode ill for the British prime minister.

Mr. Major's battle to get the Maastricht Treaty ratified is won, Britain's economic recovery is bubbling along nicely and a two-week family holiday in Portugal is not far off.

The political froth and ferment of recent months has died down as the British parliament enjoys a 12-week summer break.

But any hopes Mr. Major had that Britain's ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on political, economic and monetary union would help lift its in Conservative Party over closer ties with Europe already appear misplaced.

The collapse of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) brought all the old arguments about the value of European union back into the spotlight and led to squabbling between pro-Europeans like former Premier Sir Edward Heath and Conservative rebels.

Most Conservatives want peace on the issue for now, ahead of next year's elections for the European Parliament.

"I would have thought we needed a period when we did nothing," said member of parliament, John Townsend. "Now that the ERM has collapsed, a period of masterly inactivity is required."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. fighter crashes in Adriatic

ROME (AP) — A U.S. warplane, part of a NATO monitoring force for Bosnia, crashed into the Adriatic Sea Wednesday, the pilot was rescued. The F-16 aircraft, based at the Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy, went down in international waters off the coast of Croatia, said NATO spokeswoman Lt. Col. Janice Witt. The pilot bailed out and was rescued, Col. Witt said. "There weren't any indications there was anything other than mechanical problems," she said. The crash occurred at about noon (1000 GMT). Press Association, the British news agency, reported that a Royal Navy helicopter rescued the pilot. The exact cause of the crash was under investigation.

6 Vietnamese killed in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Unidentified assailants shot and killed six ethnic Vietnamese from fishing families in central Cambodia, a U.N. peacekeeping mission spokesman said Wednesday. A 13-year-old girl was among the victims, from two families living in a house at the mouth of the Tonle Sap Lake in Kompong Chhnang province, said spokesman Eric Falt. The assailants opened fire at about 2 a.m. Tuesday, then fled with money looted from the house, he said. Mr. Falt said U.N. peacekeepers were investigating who was responsible for the murders. Meanwhile Cambodia's interim government is preparing to hit back at Khmer Rouge guerrillas unless they halt their attacks and come to the peace table, a government minister said Wednesday. "Khmer Rouge guerrillas have increased their threats in Siem Reap, Sisophon, Poipet and Battambang but the government has been getting ready to counter-attack their movements," Vice-Information Minister Ek Sereyuth said Wednesday. Despite the violence, Cambodia's interim rulers were still prepared to accommodate the Khmer Rouge in the peace process, he told Reuters.

30,000 evacuated as storm hits C. America

MANAGUA (R) — Heavy rains and high winds forced more than 30,000 people to flee their homes as deadly tropical storm Bret moved into Central America, Nicaragua and Costa Rica bore the brunt of the storm and officials said some rivers along the Atlantic coast of the neighbouring countries overflowed their banks. In Costa Rica, most of the flooding was in isolated areas, but in Nicaragua at least eight villages were surrounded by the rising waters, officials said. One person drowned near the coastal city of Puerto Cabezas in northeastern Nicaragua as the storm moved through. Guillermo Joyas, a local government official, told Reuters. Bret killed 95 people in Venezuela at the weekend when its heavy rains caused mudslides that destroyed hillside slum dwellings around the capital Caracas.

'Cuba, U.S. should discuss differences'

CARTAGENA, Colombia (R) — Fidel Castro, on a surprise visit to Colombia, has said Cuba should discuss its differences with the United States and that any gesture which helped improve relations with Washington was welcome. Amid growing media speculation Colombian President Cesar Gaviria might be acting as an intermediary to persuade the veteran Communist leader of the need for political and economic changes in return for U.S. concessions, Mr. Castro said his priority was to get Washington to lift its ban on trade with Cuba. "I think that in essence we should discuss any difference between the U.S. and Cuba," Mr. Castro said in a television interview late Tuesday. "We will always thank... every effort which is made to persuade the United States that it should end its profane, unjust and criminal blockade."

"And we will always thank everyone who... achieves an improve-

ment in the relations between Cuba and the U.S. without necessarily needing to assign it the name of mediation."

2 hurt in Belfast carbomb blast

BELFAST (AFP) — A couple was injured Wednesday in a suburb south of Belfast when a bomb planted under their car exploded, police said. The couple were taken to hospital but their injuries are not serious. Their baby who sat in the back of the car was unhurt. The outlawed Protestant paramilitary group Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) claimed responsibility for the attack police added.

China blast toll rises to 15

HONG KONG (AP) — The death toll from last week's explosions in the prospering southern Chinese city of Shenzhen has climbed to 15, with at least seven other people missing, officials said Wednesday. Shenzhen government spokesman Li Xing said 101 people remained hospitalised, including 25 in critical condition, six days after the blasts, which left a crater some 300 feet (100 metres) wide. At least seven, possibly eight, people were believed missing, he added. "We are still investigating how many people are missing," he said.

Clinton turns to anti-crime initiative

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton is pressing for anti-crime legislation that would fulfil his pledge to put tens of thousands of new police officers on the street and tighten gun controls. The measure, already being drafted on Capitol Hill, would be a refined version of the omnibus crime bill that died last year, including the "Brady Bill" restriction on handgun purchases, an expanded federal death penalty and limits on appeals by death-row inmates. The new part is more cops. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., and House Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks, D-Texas, and their staffs have been working for months on the legislation, for which Mr. Clinton was expected to begin beating the drum.

U.S. judge Ginsburg sworn in

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pioneering women's rights advocate Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as America's second woman Supreme Court justice. She took an oath to "do equal justice to the poor and to the rich." Judge Ginsburg was sworn in twice — once at the court and an hour later at the White House with President Bill Clinton. A wide grin on her face and her voice cracking with emotion, Judge Ginsburg told a White House crowd of friends and family she would "try to every way to justify." Mr. Clinton's faith in her, "Times are changing," exulted the 60-year-old jurist. "The president has made that clear by appointing me... Six of his total of 14 federal bench nominees thus far are women."

U.S. delegation to visit Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — A U.S. congressional delegation will arrive here Thursday to evaluate Hanoi's economic reforms and study investment possibilities for American companies should the U.S. trade embargo be lifted. The 30-member delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives, the biggest to visit Vietnam, includes 11 congressmen and will be led by San Gibbons, chairman of the trade sub-committee of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. The visit follows a number of U.S. missions to Vietnam in recent weeks that have been mainly concerned with the issue of U.S. servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam War (MIAs) or with studying Vietnam's economic development."

World Athletics Championships

Soviet past haunts new republics
Bubka, Devers, Boulmerka and Ottey all set

STUTTGART (Agencies) — Europe's newest republics may be making their post-Soviet debut at the World Championships here — but their rivals will not be celebrating.

Bundled together as a Unified Team at the Barcelona Olympics, Stuttgart is the first major event where Russians, Ukrainians, Belarussians and the rest will appear in national colours.

While map-makers have been thrown into confusion by the 12 new republics, and three Baltic states, the effect on athletics is no less significant.

Suddenly, the restrictions which pegged back the number of Soviet finalists in an event have disappeared. The safety net, which ensured a fair spread of rival nationalities in the medal race, has been away.

The situation varies according to the discipline, with track athletes much less at risk than field. European and American athletes will still hold sway in the sprints, Africans in the middle distance and Asians in the marathon.

But for would-be pole vaulters and hammer-throwers, for example, the situation is little more than disastrous.

It's bad enough having to beat Sergey Bubka, the Ukrainian who has set a phenomenal 34 indoor and outdoor world records in the vault.

But at no fewer than three grand prix meets this year —

Lille, Lausanne and Oslo — Bubka was one of six former Soviets among the top eight.

The top three places all went to ex-Soviets, who are unbeaten this season in the discipline, thanks to Bubka and Russia's Olympic champion Maksim Tarasov and Rodion Gataulin.

The situation is no less desperate in the hammer, where the six best throwers of 1993 comprise three Russians, two Belarussians and a Tazhak.

Of the new arrivals, Russia is certain to win the most medals in Stuttgart, followed by either the Ukraine or Belarus.

That order was respected in Barcelona, where the Russians got 13 of the Unified Team's 21 athletics medals, the Ukraine three, Belarus two and Tazhak one. Russians also engineered the two relay medals.

In fact, the only cloud on the horizon for the former Soviet athletics machine is drugs.

The use of performance-boosting drugs by East bloc women athletes is one thing which, sadly, seems to have survived the fall of communism.

Three Bulgarian stars have been brought to earth by the dope testers this year, but so have two top Russians — Ludmila Marozhilenko and Marina Shmonina — and two Ukrainians — Tatyana Borovskikh and Inessa Kravets.

Narozhilenko, the world 100m

hurdles champion in Tokyo and 60m hurdles indoor world record holder, Dorovskikh, the 3,000m world champion and Shmonina, a relay gold medalist in Toronto, have all been banned for four years.

Kravets, the former triple jump world record holder, will also miss the World Championships after being banned for three months pending a hearing by the Ukrainian federation.

And it's quite possible that more will go into the sin bin after the festive fortnight here.

Bubka tries to get it right: Sergey Bubka may have dominated pole vaulting for the past decade, but there is no guarantee that the Ukrainian will cap his weirdest season yet with a gold medal here.

For Bubka, 1993 is proving to be an erratic year. He started the outdoor season in fine form, winning in Sao Paulo with 5.80m and then hitting 6.00m at San Jose to raise hopes that more world records would soon come tumbling down.

However, not only has the 29-year-old failed in a string of attempts to beat the 6.13 mark he set in Tokyo last year, but his form went disastrously astray mid-season, when he lost three events on the trot.

Defeat in the European Cup was followed by disappointment at Lille and Oslo, and it wasn't until the Nikita meeting in Nice that he was able to get the better of Russia's Olympic champion Maxim Tarasov.

It's a far cry from the sort of form which saw him unbeaten in seven years of championships, from the worlds at Helsinki in 1983 to the European champs at Split in 1990.

And further still from the performance over the last couple of years which had cynics pouring scorn on the wily Ukrainian's style of setting records.

As the records fell, one centimetre at a time, critics claimed he was carefully calibrating his performances to extract the maximum prize money — with each record being worth around 50,000 dollars.

Those taunts are no longer relevant.

For although Bubka can now command \$80,000 a meet, he has more to prove in Stuttgart than the fact that he's an extremely healthy man.

Like athletics' other megastar, Carl Lewis, Bubka will be going top his fourth consecutive world title here. And like Lewis, he would also like to put the Barcelona Olympics behind him.

Devers busy before world meet: Gail Devers is ready to race for three gold medals at the IAAF World Championships.

The U.S. sprinter won three gold medals two weeks ago over a field at the U.S. Olympic Festival, taking the 100 metres, the 100-metre hurdles and anchoring the triumphant 400-metre relay. She will attempt the same sweep in Stuttgart against a world-class field.

"I accomplished exactly what I wanted," Devers said of her achievement in San Antonio, Texas. "This was just the preparation I needed for the World Championships. I will be ready."

Success is relative in many ways for Devers, who merely belatedly the opportunity to compete after a successful battle against Graves' disease, a thyroid malady. Living with her ailment has meant regular medication, rest and careful eating.

Devers first felt weakened at the 1988 Olympics, finishing last in her 100m hurdles semi-final. Following the games, she suffered headaches, fainting and weight fluctuations leaving her totally unable to compete. It took two years for doctors to discover her ailment.

Radiation treatment eased the condition for Devers, but her skin was so sore she could walk without her feet swelling and bleeding. She came within two days of having her feet amputated before deciding against the operation.

The symptoms passed in time, and Devers won the U.S. 100 hurdles practice.

At the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, barely three months after her return to the track, Devers finished second to Lyudmila Narozhilenko in the 100 hurdles.

Devers, stumbling over the final hurdle to fall from the lead and finish fourth.

Boulmerka to set the record straight: Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka returns to defend her 1,500m world title as an Olympic champion who needs to get her career back on the rails.

Boulmerka made history in Tokyo two years ago by becoming the first African woman to win a world title. She followed that with Algeria's first ever Olympic gold medal after a stunning performance in Barcelona.

But more recently, things have not gone so well for the woman who has to brave the wrath of Islamic fundamentalists back home whenever she bares her legs to run abroad.

The Mediterranean Games in June should have been a major morale boost, particularly after coming fifth in pouring rain at St Denis, outside Paris, the week before.

But after her expected victory in the 800m in Narbonne, the event suddenly turned very sour. She completely dominated the 1,500m, so much so that she found time towards the end to wave her rivals dismissively goodbye. She crossed the line with her arms aloft and went on a jubilant lap of honour.

But she had lost.

The price of her over-confidence was to let France's Frederique Amenin literally buck head-first beneath Boulmerka's raised arms at the line and win a photo-finish.

The Algerian, booed and whistled by the crowd for the first time in her career, was so distraught that she snubbed the medal ceremony.

Conference on horse virus planned

CHICAGO (AP) — Arlington International Racecourse plans an industry-wide conference to address a horse virus outbreak that is worrying owners of candidates for the Aug. 29 Arlington Million.

Equine viral arteritis, a virus causing inflammation of horses' intestines, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and pulmonary edema, has infected more than 150 horses at Arlington. Now, because of the outbreak, six states — California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska, New York and Oklahoma — are not accepting horses that were stable there.

"The disease itself in racehorses, at least at this racetrack, is not terribly serious," said Dr. Ronald Jensen, state veterinarian at Arlington. "It's serious because it's contagious. The two biggest concerns are for pregnant mares because of the abortive factor and for stallions because they might become carriers."

Arlington is housing incoming horses in temporary portable.

At the meeting, veterinarians plan to explain the virus and racetrack officials plan to outline what they're doing to contain it. Horse owners from the United States, Europe and Japan, representatives from the Illinois and U.S. departments of agriculture, the Illinois Racing Board staff and track officials were expected at the conference, track president Edward Duffy said.

Flach ousts Lendl

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Pete Sampras, who came to fame in tennis in being someone's younger brother, beat slumping Ivan Lendl in the first round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday to make a name for himself at the Championships.

Flach, who had to win a qualifying tournament last week to enter the main draw, defeated Lendl, 23rd birthday by defeating him 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

"This is the biggest win of my tennis career," said Flach, whose brother Ken Flach is a Grand Slam doubles champion. "And it's my birthday too. It couldn't have come at a better time."

Flach, ranked 237th in the world, played exceptionally well against one of his toughest opponents. He broke Lendl's serve to open the third set and broke him again to go up 4-1.

Lendl, ranked seventh, was ready to take a golf course for the rest of the day.

"I think it may help my golf over the next few days," he said.

While the unimpaired Lendl headed for the fairways, Andre Agassi ended a personal slump against No. 11 seed Todd Martin, again playing tournament unseeded for the first time in six years, to overcome 23 aces to win 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round.

The Las Vegas star — now ranked a lowly 21 — had lost to Martin twice this year. Only two weeks ago he had beaten him in a tournament.

"I didn't feel he was the kind of player who has my number," Agassi said. "I felt like I was going to beat him a couple of times. I was going to beat him."

The \$1.65 million tournament lost another top seed Tuesday when No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia had to retire in the second set against Luis Llopis because of a sore forearm. Llopis forced Ivanisevic to retire.

The rest of the week ended in straight sets before steady rain moved in and washed out the night matches. No. 3 seed Andre Agassi defeated Hasek 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, while the underdog David Leander beat 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, while the underdog David Leander beat 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Flach, who had to win a qualifying tournament last week to enter the main draw, defeated Lendl, 23rd birthday by defeating him 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

"This is the biggest win of my tennis career," said Flach, whose brother Ken Flach is a Grand Slam doubles champion. "And it's my birthday too. It couldn't have come at a better time."

Flach, ranked 237th in the world, played exceptionally well against one of his toughest opponents. He broke Lendl's serve to open the third set and broke him again to go up 4-1.

Lendl, ranked seventh, was ready to take a golf course for the rest of the day.

"I think it may help my golf over the next few days," he said.

While the unimpaired Lendl headed for the fairways, Andre Agassi ended a personal slump against No. 11 seed Todd Martin, again playing tournament unseeded for the first time in six years, to overcome 23 aces to win 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round.

The Las Vegas star — now ranked a lowly 21 — had lost to Martin twice this year. Only two weeks ago he had beaten him in a tournament.

"I didn't feel he was the kind of player who has my number," Agassi said. "I felt like I was going to beat him a couple of times. I was going to beat him."

The \$1.65 million tournament lost another top seed Tuesday when No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia had to retire in the second set against Luis Llopis because of a sore forearm. Llopis forced Ivanisevic to retire.

The rest of the week ended in straight sets before steady rain moved in and washed out the night matches. No. 3 seed Andre Agassi defeated Hasek 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, while the underdog David Leander beat 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Professional tennis coach to begin programme in Amman

James Downing a British Lawn Tennis Coach sponsored by Lacoste (Paris) and Prince (Asia) will be the new Tennis Director at Jordan's newest tennis complex the Forte Grand Amman.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

Downing has been in Jordan for two weeks to prepare tennis programme for Jordan's top players as well as beginners who wish to start a long career in tennis. He has just finished a contract with the All India Tennis Association where he saw one of his pupils captain the Indian Junior Davis Cup team in Hong Kong and another receive a three year scholarship to the Rick Madsen Tennis Academy in Florida, U.S.A.

The programme coach Downing will be organising will be for a fun social club atmosphere and for those juniors who want a stepping stone to a career in International Tennis. He is planning monthly tournaments that welcome foreign players and for the first time in Jordan, will offer prize money to all finalists. He will also be looking to find sponsorship from foreign companies for the most promising players.

M United eager for more success

LONDON (R) — Manchester United await the opening of the new English soccer season this weekend bursting with an eagerness driven by success and a quest to become a dominant force at home and in Europe.

Since savouring the sweetest taste of triumph when they won the English League championship last season for the first time in 26 years, United have built up an unquenchable thirst for more.

Far from being satisfied with delivering the frustratingly elusive league title to Old Trafford, manager Alex Ferguson now wants to keep it — and add the European Cup.

If United retain their league title they would become only the second club after Liverpool to do so since Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1959.

And if they capture the Euro-

pean Cup they would be the first English side to lift the trophy since Liverpool won it for the fourth time in 1992.

To achieve one would be exceptional, but to do both herald the beginning of a new United dynasty to rival the Liverpool of the 1970s and 80s.

Ferguson believes he has the team to pull it off.

"It is time to move on towards the next destination. Hopefully the next step will bring either the European Cup, the retention of the title, or both," he said.

Ferguson knows what it takes to win in Europe after United captured the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991.

He added one player in the close season — Roy Keane, considered to be the most talented midfielder in the country and who cost an English record £2.5 mil-

lion to sign from Liverpool.

Ferguson's squad of 25 players is expected to be unveiled on Wednesday.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

United's last season was a disappointment. They won the league but lost the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

CONCORD

1) Bruce Willis in
HUDSON HAWK

2) Kim Basinger & Richard Gere ...
FINAL ANALYSIS

PLAZA

Adel Imam in
Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal
play
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

PHILADELPHIA

INDOCHINE

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.

On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons.

Rabil Al Mshkil

Coming soon:
Fuad Shomali
Abu Fayer
in the popular comedy
Al Ilmu Raron

MAJESTIC

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.

UAE bans Chinese ship from docking

DUBAI (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Coast-guard ships have denied a Chinese vessel carrying banned chemicals destined for Iran from docking at one of its ports, shipping agents said Wednesday.

"UAE coast-guards stopped the ship from coming to Dubai because it is carrying hazardous cargo not allowed in the UAE," one agent following the vessel's movements told Reuters. "I think part of the cargo is also explosive."

A U.S. Navy spokesman in the Gulf told Reuters Wednesday the ship, the Yinhe, is still basically in the same area. It is in the eastern approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, the only entrance to the strategic waterway.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said on Tuesday American ships patrolling the Gulf "have not stopped, detained or in any way threatened the ship... nor have we asked any country in the region to deny the Yinhe docking privileges."

Another shipping agent in the Gulf said: "We do not have any knowledge when the ship will be coming in. This is a political, sensitive issue between governments and no longer a commercial issue for (shipping) agents."

China said Wednesday the United States, which it described as a "self-anointed international policeman," must trust other countries more and interfere less.

The commentary in the People's Daily, the official Communist Party paper, came after the United States admitted to tracking the Iran-bound Chinese ship alleged to be carrying banned chemicals.

Shippers said the Chinese vessel, currently south of the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, has been in the area for at least a week apparently awaiting fresh instructions.

They said U.S. warships in the region had been maintaining a close watch of the vessel which Mr. McCurry said was in Iranian territorial waters.

The Yinhe is believed to be carrying thiodyglycol which is used in blister agents and thionyl chlorides used in blister and nerve agents.

In its signed commentary, the People's Daily reiterated China's stance that U.S. allegations the Yinhe was transporting precursor elements for chemical weapons to Iran were "totally groundless."

The cargo ship, which left the Chinese port of Dalian July 15, was sailing to Iran on normal business activities, it said, but added it was now adrift without fuel or water after its scheduled voyage was disrupted.

"Under the current international circumstances, nations should establish a new international political and economic order and develop cooperative relations on the basis of equality and mutual trust," the commentary said.

But this was not possible if the United States clung to its outdated hegemonic style as to a "treasure," it said.

The style runs counter to international trends and hinders world peace and tranquility, it said, trying Washington to put more trust in other countries and help foster equal cooperation rather than creating "undesired troubles."

Buthelezi warns of war; Mandela blames whites

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Wednesday the African National Congress (ANC) armed wing was trained to kill civilians and its inclusion in a proposed force to keep peace in South African townships would end in disaster.

Addressing 2,000 supporters at Tokoza township, where army paratroopers shot dead two gunmen on Tuesday night, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader called for peace but said he feared war.

The main cause of violence were the government's secret talks with the ANC and plans for the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), to join a national peacekeeping force in the transition from white rule, he said.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, Mr. Buthelezi's main black political rival, told Zulu listeners to state radio that "white oppressors" and the police were to blame for the bloodshed.

"The carnage is the continuation of the old policy of white supremacy, a total strategy merging of all armed formations under multi-party control."

Mr. Buthelezi said MK, the main guerrilla army which fought white rule during the apartheid years, was a prime cause of unrest.

"MK is made up of people who are not only trained to fight but... to kill ordinary people... to kill civilians," he said.

"I call again for the disbandment of MK and I warn the South African government and the world... the absorption of MK into a so-called multi-party peacekeeping force is a total prescription for disaster," he told the crowd at Tokoza auditorium.

Tokoza and neighbouring Katlehong have been the focus of Johannesburg township violence mainly between ANC and Inkatha supporters, in which 217 people have died in the past 11

days. Inkatha and the Kwazulu homeland, of which Mr. Buthelezi is chief minister, walked out of multi-party democracy negotiations last month with a white right-wing party after an announcement of an election date which Mr. Buthelezi says is premature.

The dissenters want greater ethnic autonomy in some regions.

The ANC is expected to win the nation's first multiracial election, scheduled for April, and wants to post-apartheid government to have strong central powers.

Inkatha and pro-apartheid whites want homelands where they can govern themselves free of domination by the ANC.

Mr. Buthelezi visited Tokoza and Katlehong, where some of the worst fighting has occurred, six days after Mr. Mandela made a similar trip. Both men said it was time for their supporters to seek reconciliation with rivals instead of fighting them.

Political violence resurged last month after black and white negotiators set the election date. More than 200 blacks have been killed in township clashes and attacks this month.

Police reported seven more deaths Wednesday, including two people thrown from a commuter train outside Johannesburg after dawn.

Attacks on the trains used almost exclusively by blacks travelling between their townships and workplaces have resumed this month after a lull since last year, when similar incidents killed some 200 blacks.

Also Wednesday, prison officials said a fight among inmates left 33 injured, including two hit by birdshot fired by guard to stop the clashes.

The fight Tuesday at Leeuwkop prison near Johannesburg was believed to have started between two gangs.



An unidentified ultraorthodox Jew appeals to God outside the Israeli supreme court during the hearing of eight petitions demanding a fresh trial for John Demjanjuk Wednesday (AFP photo)

Israeli attorney recommends against retrial for Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's attorney general Wednesday recommended that Israel deport John Demjanjuk, acquitted of being a Nazi guard, and rejected opening a second trial against the retired Ohio autoworker on new war crimes charges.

Given that Demjanjuk was extradited from the United States to face charges of being "Ivan the Terrible," Israel did not have the option of trying him for other crimes, Attorney General Yosef Harish said in the decision.

"We have no alternative but to deport him from Israel based on the extradition order that was made against him," the opinion said.

Eti Eshed, a spokeswoman for the justice ministry, gave reporters a copy of the opinion outside the supreme court building, shortly before the justices convened to decide whether to release Demjanjuk or order a new trial.

Petitioners demanding a new trial were expected to seek a further delay in the court ruling so they can reply to the attorney general. It appeared likely, however, that the court would go along with Mr. Harish's recommendations.

Relatives in Cleveland said their main concern was to get Demjanjuk home as fast as possible and to provide some security.

"I know the pressure was enormous to ignore the law and the treaty, but the government was mindful that cases of this magnitude must be handled by the book," said Ed Nishnik, Demjan-

duk's son-in-law, said from his home in suburban Cleveland.

Demjanjuk's attorney Yoram Sheftel said that if the court rejects a new trial he will seek protective custody for his client pending a decision on his return to the United States.

He said it was unlikely Demjanjuk, who remained in the Ayalon prison and was not at the supreme court hearing, would leave Israel Wednesday but might depart before the weekend.

Demjanjuk applied to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno Monday for a special entry permit to the United States after a Cincinnati court ordered his return while his original extradition was reviewed.

The U.S. government, however, asked an appeals court to reconsider the ruling that would allow him back. Demjanjuk was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 on grounds he lied about his past on immigration papers. He was extradited to Israel in 1986 to stand trial on charges that he was a guard at Treblinka camp in Poland.

Demjanjuk, 73, was acquitted by Israel's supreme court on July 29 of being "Ivan the Terrible," the guard who operated the gas chambers in Treblinka.

Five supreme court justices overturned Demjanjuk's conviction and death sentence after finding there was reasonable doubt about this identity.

The justices ruled that there was evidence that Demjanjuk was a guard at Sobibor camp, but it did not convict him because he

had not had a chance to defend himself adequately on those charges.

Demjanjuk has denied he was at any death camps. He has argued that he was a victim of mistaken identity and spent the war in a Nazi prison.

The prosecution produced a Nazi identity card showing he was trained at the Trawniki camp and served as a guard at the Sobibor camp and Flossenberg camp in Poland.

A half-dozen petitions had been filed with the court, all demanding a new trial.

A lower, three-judge panel of Israel's multiracial supreme court then asked Harish to explain why Demjanjuk should not be compelled to stand trial on charges that he was a guard elsewhere.

Mr. Harish said he could not endorse a new trial because there was a danger of double jeopardy — that Demjanjuk would stand trial a second time on the same evidence which would violate international principles of justice.

He also said the original extradition order concerned Treblinka and not the other camps. A second trial might violate Israel's extradition treaty with the United States.

Mr. Harish wrote that he had studied the material carefully and "with a heavy heart. I reached the conclusion that we cannot go back and start new criminal proceedings against Demjanjuk."

"I am happy (Harish) did not change his opinion under pressure from the street," Mr. Sheftel said.

Poll mechanism still a mystery

(Continued from page 1)

Front (IAF), that it will boycott the elections if the law was changed without the approval of the House.

"This government will not be pushed around. (It) will govern according to the Constitution," Dr. Abu Nawar had told the Jordan Times in reaction to the threat.

To this, the opposition's reaction was strident. "It is better to be pushed by your own people than by the Americans," Mr. Shbeilat said, echoing a claim made by some former, mainly Muslim Brotherhood, deputies that the United States was behind the drive for electoral change.

The Muslim Brotherhood feels targeted by the proposed amendments which are expected to weaken its performance in the elections for the 12th Parliament.

Under the current bloc-voting system, the Brotherhood was able to form alliances that enabled it to win 23 seats in the 1989 elections, which observers say is disproportionate to the popular support it had.

A one-person-one-vote system is expected to deny the Brotherhood, which will contest the election on the IAF ticket, the opportunity to form such alliances and thus end up with a lesser number of seats in the House.

The government is not expected to take any decision on the law until the voter registration period ends on Aug. 15 in order to preempt attempts by large political groups to spread the votes of their supporters among different constituencies to ensure better performance, according to some sources.

The Higher Court of Justice is expected to have the final

say on the government's decision in the event of the more likely event of it changing the law.

In addition to the deputies who say will contest such a decision in court, a group of nine lawyers have said they will also take the government to court, confident of their chance to win the case.

"(The Constitution) allows for the issuing of temporary laws only in extraordinary cases... which are not applicable at this time," the nine lawyers said in a joint statement issued Tuesday by the so-called "alliance of forces opposed to surrender."

Considering that the Parliament which could have acted on any proposed legislation was dissolved, Mr. Shbeilat argued, "any court that will examine the matter can only recognize the strength of our case."

Libya defiant despite risk of more sanctions

CAIRO (R) — Libya repeated Wednesday its refusal to hand over two men accused in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airline under present conditions despite risking more sanctions when the United Nations reviews the case on Sunday.

"For Libya this is a taboo. Libya will never surrender the two men," a Libyan diplomat told Reuters in Cairo.

He said a series of meetings and consultations which took place recently with U.N. and Western envoys "indicated the sanctions, could be extended rather than stepped up."

But a Western diplomat said Britain, the United States and France were determined to see Tripoli's full compliance with Security Council resolutions 731 and 748.

"We haven't seen any move from the Libyans on our basic demands which remain the hand-over of the two Libyans to be tried in Scotland or the United States and cooperation in a probe on a bombing of a French airliner," the diplomat said.

The two men are suspected of involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland killing 270 people.

The Libyan diplomat said Tripoli was banking on diplomatic efforts to avoid more sanctions when a U.N. committee meets on Aug. 15 to review the case and the sanctions imposed on it last year for its failure to hand over the two suspects.

U.S., British and French officials met in London Tuesday to

discuss the sanctions. U.N. Secretary-General Bontros Ghali also discussed the issue with Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Muntasser Tuesday. Egypt, which has been involved in an intensive mediation efforts to find a way out of the Lockerbie crisis, urged the West on Wednesday "to give Egyptian diplomacy a chance."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters Cairo was holding high-level contacts to broker a solution in compliance with the U.N. resolutions.

Tripoli is also under pressure to cooperate in a French probe into the 1989 bombing of a French airliner in which 171 people were killed.

Arah and Western diplomats said the three Western powers might consider freezing some Libyan assets abroad and banning the purchase of oil-related equipment.

Another option they were considering was to extend the sanctions, along with a "diplomatic escalation" that would involve an ultimatum, not to exceed one or two months, for Libya to comply or face tougher sanctions.

Libya is now subject to a ban on arms sales and aviation links as well as the downgrading of diplomatic ties, in measures which took effect on April 15, 1992.

Tripoli has denied any role in the bombings and has said it would surrender the two Lockerbie suspects for trial in a neutral country but not to the United States or Britain. The offer was rejected.

North Korea asks Israel for help with gold mine

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has asked Israel to help it develop a gold mine in the northern province of Unsan, Israeli diplomatic sources in Tokyo said.

An Israeli delegation led by the deputy director-general of the foreign ministry, Eytan Bentsur, met a North Korean delegation in Pyongyang last October and in Peking in June. It was at these meetings that the request was made, the sources said.

"I guess North Korea's incentive is technical and economic assistance," a Tokyo-based Israeli diplomat told Reuters. "But nothing practical has been agreed so far," he added. "There may be a third meeting between the two."

The request was made during meetings at which Israel was trying to persuade Pyongyang to stop selling missiles to Iran, the source said.

"At the talks, although Israel raised the missile sales, North Korea talked about the gold mine. We understood their message was that Pyongyang is ready to stop selling the missiles if we help develop the gold mine," the Israeli diplomat said.

Foreign Ministry sources in Israel, however, strongly denied any connection between mine and missiles.

"There is no link between economic issues and the responsible behaviour of North Korea vis-à-vis supplying armaments to such a delicate area and to some of our neighbors," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Israel and North Korea have no formal diplomatic ties.

"The missiles can reach all of Israel and many parts of the Middle East. This is a very dangerous situation and it is important to persuade North Korea to stop selling them to Iran," the Tokyo-based Israeli diplomat said.

Last month Japan's Defence Agency said North Korea had test-fired its medium-range

Rodong missile, an upgraded version of the Soviet Scud with a 1,000-kilometre range, over the Sea of Japan in May.

The United States' Central Intelligence Agency confirmed last month that Iran was trying to buy the missile, which can be armed with chemical or nuclear weapons.

Stuck with a non-convertible currency and a weak economy after the collapse of its long-time ally the Soviet Union, North Korea has resorted to selling more gold to raise hard currency, according to the London-based Gold Fields Mineral Service Ltd.

North Korea produced 17 tonnes of gold in 1992, against 13 tonnes in 1991 and 9.5 tonnes in 1989, it said.

The current gold rally might be spurring Pyongyang's interest in selling gold, Japanese industry sources said.

Gold has risen from a seven-year low of \$326 an ounce in March to around \$382 this week.

The Unsan gold mine was opened during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula and its reserves are among the largest in the nation, said Motoi Tamaki, a Japanese expert on Korean affairs.

"Pyongyang asked Japanese companies to redevelop the Unsan gold mine about five years ago. But since the infrastructure around the mine was terrible, the Japanese gave up," he said.

An Israeli foreign ministry official visited Tokyo in July, immediately after the second round of talks with North Korean diplomats in Peking, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

The Israelis briefed the Japanese ministry on the talks, he said, but he declined to specify the content of the briefing.

"We're very careful to cooperate with the U.S., South Korea and Japan," another Israeli diplomatic source said. "Israel is not going to contact Pyongyang on its own."

COLUMN

Child hits lion to stop attack on brother

GEORGETOWN, Ohio (AP) — A 7-year-old stopped a lion's attack on his 16-year-old brother by hitting it several times, authorities said Tuesday. The animal was later shot to death. The lion had broken loose from a cage at a farm near Georgetown, 65 kilometres (40 miles) southeast of Cincinnati. Lee Kimberly was attacked Monday in a field about a mile from the farm as he walked with his brother, Ron, and two friends. The lion retreated after Ron struck it several times, allowing the boys to flee. Sheriff Wendell Crawford said the lion was shot to death after attempts to subdue it failed. Lee, who was bitten around the face, was in fair condition at University of Cincinnati Hospital. Authorities did not know how the male lion escaped. Its remains were being tested for rabies.

U.S. embargo nearly strands Castro

CARTAGENA, Colombia (R) — Visiting Cuban leader Fidel Castro almost found himself stranded in Colombia Tuesday after multinational oil companies refused to refuel his official plane. The companies cited the U.S. ban on trade with Cuba. A civil aviation official told Reuters that Esso, Mobil and Texaco, the normal suppliers of aviation fuel in Colombia, had all declined to fill up Castro's Russian-made plane and a second Cuban aircraft carrying members of his entourage after they landed in this Caribbean port Monday night for a two-day visit. "The Colombian foreign minister, defence minister and the Civil Aviation Authority had to intervene to solve the problem," the official said. "It was a process of mediation to get around the trade embargo." To solve the problem, the Colombian fuel company Terpel — which does not normally sell aviation fuel — sent an empty tanker to buy the kerosene from one of the multinational companies and then resold it to the Cuban planes.

Ex-King Constantine, sons visit Mount Athos

ATHENS (AP) Ex-King Constantine of Greece and two of his sons visited the monastic Republic of Mount Athos Tuesday, amid opposition party calls that the former royal family be expelled from Greece. King Constantine, 53, is paying his first visit to Greece since attending his mother's funeral with special permission in 1981. He and his family have been in exile since 1967, and the monarchy was abolished by a referendum in 1974. "I am very moved to be at this holy place. I am especially happy that I have my two sons with me," King Constantine told Athens-based Antenna Television as he and sons Paul and Nicholas arrived at Vatopedion Monastery. The channel showed monks kissing the former king and his sons on their cheeks as they arrived on a motor launch from the yacht on which Mr. Constantine, his Danish-born wife, Anne-Marie, and their five children have been touring since they arrived in the country Monday. Women are barred from the Mount Athos peninsula and its 20 eastern Orthodox monasteries in northern Greece. The conservative government says that King Constantine is free to visit Greece as he is a private citizen on a short holiday. Members of the former royal family have common Greek passports.

Paper prints topless photos of 'Hollywood madam'

LONDON (AP) — Under the headline Nothing To Heidi, Britain's largest-circulation newspaper published topless photos Tuesday of a young woman identified as reputed Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss. The Sun displayed the three topless photos next to a picture of Ms. Fleiss in a mini-dress in a Los Angeles court Monday where she pleaded innocent to running a high-priced prostitution ring catering to Hollywood's elite. The Sun claimed the three pictures, which looked like Ms. Fleiss "were taken by one of her clients in a hotel room." It did not identify the photographer or the hotel. The arrest of Ms. Fleiss, the 27-year-old daughter of a prominent Los Angeles paediatrician, has sent the Hollywood rumour mill into overdrive guessing at the contents of her address book. Police refuse to disclose the names and she has remained silent. One photo in the Sun showed the woman wearing only bikini panties. In another she appeared topless in bed.

Palestinians divided over 'Gaza first' with Jericho option

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — Last week's announcement that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is willing to consider a "Gaza first" with Jericho option to accelerate and facilitate the possibility of a Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough at the peace talks has created a heated debate within the Palestinian community, both in the diaspora and in the occupied territories, with the focus of that effort being on what it actually means to the peace process.

The PLO's or more specifically Chairman Yasser Arafat's conception of the Gaza first scenario appears to be that an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the governance of Jericho would be a precedent to further Israeli withdrawal and would be the beginning of a phased departure by Israel from the Palestinian land that it illegally occu-

pies. While many, if not most Israeli politicians, have called for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the proposal has not been fielded at any of the 10 rounds of talks between the two sides since the peace talks began at Madrid in October of 1991.

After Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said that the PLO would consider taking control of Gaza and Jericho as a first step towards breaking the Middle East peace talks deadlock last week Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, told the press that "we are quite enchanted with Gaza first, but much less so with Jericho, but we don't reject the idea and would consider it seriously."

However, the Israeli version of Gaza first is the handing over of administrative affairs of the strip to Palestinians rather than ordering an actual military withdrawal.

"Palestinians handling the dirty work and then reporting to Israeli authorities is what the Israeli plan would entail at this stage," Palestinian peace negotiator Ghassan Khatib told the Jordan Times.

There are thus two conflicts involved in the Gaza first strategy. One is the deep Palestinian scepticism about Israeli intentions to make the move the first of several steps towards total withdrawal and not an end in and of itself. The second conflict is between the PLO and Israel over the definition and scope of the Gaza first option.

In the first instance, Dr. Labib Kamhawi said, it is true that "the Israelis do not want Gaza, but they do want the West Bank. If we relinquish the linkage between the two territories, by accepting the first option then we play into Israeli hands and do exactly what they want."

This Palestinian commenta-

tor and other opponents of the Gaza first theory argue that Israel would claim that it has complied with U.N. Resolution 242 by relinquishing control over Palestinian land and would make no further withdrawal from the rest of the occupied territories.

"A withdrawal from Gaza would save the Israelis from a (human) time bomb and then we would lose any bargaining power vis-a-vis the West Bank," Dr. Kamhawi insisted.

The opponents also fear that a de facto Palestinian state would be created in Gaza and that Israel would thus argue that a Palestinian state existed in Gaza thus nullifying any claim to the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Critics of Chairman Arafat have argued that he wants to create a base for himself and the PLO fighters in Gaza. "He needs a base for himself and the PLO apparatus and he thinks he can set it up in

Gaza," one of them said. Palestinians, from both the negotiating team and others close to them, argue that Israel is not offering a military withdrawal but simply a chance for Palestinians to do the dirty work for the Israelis and that such a step would be unacceptable.

Mr. Arafat "would try to sell even self-administration as a victory to his people," contended one Palestinian negotiator last week.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the Gaza first theory can also be described as one of communication and understanding.

"If Israel continues to speak of creating self-administered territories, which it ultimately controls, and the Palestinians continue to talk about self-rule and self-government and independence from the Israelis, we will never go anywhere since these are two peoples who are speaking two completely diffe-

rent languages," one Palestinian observer said.

The lack of progress after 10 rounds of talks and the perceived willingness on the part of other Arab parties and the U.S. to arm-twist Palestinians into accepting concessions is fuelling radicalisation of the Palestinian position, especially in the occupied territories who think that the PLO leadership is sitting to cave in to pressure.

"Our children who have spent years in prison or who have lost limbs in the resistance movement have not fought so that the PLO and other Arab leaders surrender our rights; they fought so we can keep our land," said Abu Amer, 45, a father of two intifada leaders who are imprisoned for their activities against the occupation.

The PLO's ruling circles, headed by Mr. Arafat, now appear the most moderate of all Palestinian groups. Some Palestine National Council

members believe that the PLO is afraid of losing its role and is thus playing the part of the all-willing peace partner while others argue that the PLO chairman fears the other Arab parties will strike a separate peace with the Jewish state and leave the Palestinians out in the cold.

Opponents of the peace process and the Gaza first plan argue that no Arab state, in particular Syria and Jordan, would sign a peace treaty with Israel without a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian-Israeli question.

"It will be up to the Palestinians to say no to a bad deal and the rest will follow," said a former Fatah member who has defected to Hamas, the Islamic Movement.

"Syria and Jordan would never have gone to the peace talks without the Palestinians and they won't sign without the Palestinians either," argued the defector.